

BACKYARD BLITZ

Resort Living



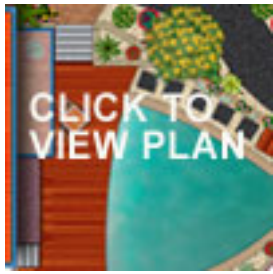
Sisters Donna and Debra McGlinchie were the winners of our May "Battle of the Backyard" viewer competition.

Their unusual Brisbane garden was the perfect canvas for a creative overhaul. While the girls had put a lot of work into converting the dated 70's property into a modern, bohemian space, the Blitz team take the transformation to a whole new level, building a virtual in-house resort.

Design

Our design shows how to bring a garden to its full potential by creating defined garden beds for many of the potted plants and tying together the two microclimates in the garden while retaining the colourful elements. We are retaining many of the plants in gardens with low retaining walls painted purple and we have chosen to add some strong architectural succulent plants (yucca, zamia, agave), colourful foliage plants (cordylines, rhoeo) and bright flowering plants (kalanchoe, heliconia).

We add a beautiful deck around the pool with a shade structure, tiled panels and planting to give a resort-feel to the pool area.



Nigel's tips

Nigel gives a few tips on designing a garden: It is important to have an idea of the big picture before you begin; it is a good idea to have a theme, then do a plan and stay with it even if you only do a bit at a time.

Set Up

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.

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.

Garden elements

Hebel garden wall: Nigel set out our new Hebel wall. Using plastic as a damp course we laid our first course on a 4:1 sand mix (commonly called mud). This allows us to establish a level for further courses. The next course is laid with Hebel adhesive bought in premixed bags and is a thin bed as opposed to our mud course. On completion, we used a waterproofing membrane on the garden bed side of the wall. This, along with our plastic dampcourse, stops capillary action and preserves our blockwork. Any rough edges can easily be sanded off with a sanding board. We finished by bagging with a sand cement mix and once dried painted for effect.



Pathway: Jamie drew on the concrete pathway the new shape and then with a wet saw, which we hired, proceeded to cut along the lines. Once the cuts were made we jackhammered out the areas for the garden beds. We used a quick drying paving paint to give us another dimension.

Tiled features: Jody prepared a tiled feature to be hung on the wall beside the pool. We elected to do this on the flat. Jody used a good quality flexible outdoor adhesive to attach our tiles to the blueboard. We left out key tiles so that we could dynabolt to the wall once dry. Then we added the extra tiles and grouted.



Steppers and pool pump: Nigel used paving steppers laid on a mud mix beside the pool. Scottie reclad the existing frame of the pool pump shed with timber decking for a new look.

Deck around pool: Scottie bolted stirrups to the existing concrete around the pool to which we then laid out our floor bearers. These are bolted with galvanised bolts. Once this was done we attached our joists at 450mm centres and put on hardwood decking. We nailed all but the ends of the decking which had to be predrilled before nailing to avoid splitting.

Prior to the decking boards, Scottie mounted two posts on stirrups bolted to the concrete and attached a beam between each which was the front support for our Solarspan roof. The other side was attached to a channel bolted to the house. Solarspan can support large spans without further support.

Deck over corner of pool: We built a mini deck over the corner of the pool. This cantilevered over the pool and was connected from Scottie's deck with Nigel's steppers. This was built in the same way as a conventional deck and provided a winter sun deck.



Garden

We planted the potted plants into the garden beds.

We used an innovative drip irrigation system throughout our garden for very efficient water conservation. This subsurface irrigation system (KISSS) relies on capillary action and is less affected by surface evaporation. The tube is prewrapped with a geotextile fabric and this provides millions of absorption points along the system which allows the water to be distributed more evenly and faster while minimizing drainage loss.

Plants

Cottonwood (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*), alexandra palm (*Archontophoenix alexandrae*), jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*), bird's nest fern (*Asplenium australasicum*), bromeliad (*Neoregelia* cv), cordyline (*Cordyline* 'Rubra', *Cordyline* 'Harlequin'), heliconia (*Heliconia* 'Red Christmas'), fan palm (*Licuala ramsayi*), lady palm (*Rhapis excelsa*), lilly pilly (*Syzygium* 'Cascade'), agave (*Agave attenuata*),

Kalanchoe (*Kalanchoe blossfeldiana* hybrid), ivy leaf geranium (*Pelargonium peltatum*), bush allamanda (*Allamanda schottii*), rock orchid (*Dendrobium speciosum*), yucca (*Yucca elephantipes*), cardboard palm (*Zamia furfuracea*), dwarf papyrus (*Cyperus prolifer*), waterlily (*Nymphaea* 'Tina').



Cost

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 \$31,584. The use of smaller plants would have reduced the cost to \$27,945.

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.
- Our dendrobium orchids came from Cedarvale Orchids, 16 Heather-Anne Drive, Draper Qld. 4520. Mail order or open by appointment. Phone (07) 3289 1953.
- 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.
- Bondor supplied Solarspan insulated panels. For information on these panels and other insulated panel systems, visit web: www.solarspan.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 web: www.beefeaterbbq.com

- The feature tiles from Bisazza Tiles (02) 9838 9233, website:
www.bisazza.com.au

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Bondor (Solarspan), Woodlands Home Products (Beefeater barbecue), for their kind donation to the McGlinchie family.

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).

Holiday details

Orpheus Island Resort

Great Barrier Reef,
Queensland

PMB 15,
Townsville, Qld
4810

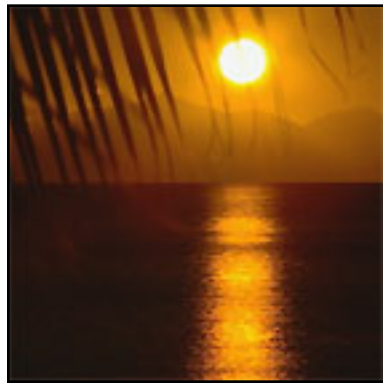
Phone: (07) 4777
7377

Web: [www.
orpheus.com.au](http://www.orpheus.com.au)

Nautilus Aviation

Aircraft
Charters
Hangar 15,
Townsville
Airport

Garbutt, Qld
4814
Phone: (07)
4725 6056



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