

BACKYARD BLITZ

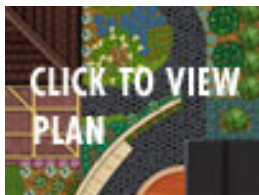
Blitz Simulcast Special



In an innovative Blitz first, we launch an interactive "*smellivision*" experience! In partnership with the Burke's Backyard magazine, viewers can smell the scents of the flowers that we plant in the garden. Dianna Craig is a music teacher and mother of three who loves cottage and fragrant gardens. In this one hour floral spectacular, watch as we build her the ultimate in flower gardens.

Design brief

To create a cottage garden with a music studio, curved bench with stone seating, cobblestone paving and paths connecting to the main lawn and a garden filled with flowers - it will feel good, smell good, taste good and sound good.



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.

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

Clear the garden of unwanted debris and vegetation. Once the design is complete, mark it out on the ground with aerosol survey paint and ensure that everything fits and make any necessary adjustments.

Garden elements

Formwork for the concrete slab: Form ply was used as our formwork because it has finished surfaces and the concrete won't stick to the surface, and it can be reused.

A cheaper construction ply or old fencing rails can be used as formwork.

The formwork was laid out making sure the pegs were firmly in place to keep rigid as the weight of the concrete could make the formwork bulge. Use lengths of string or a tape measure to measure the diagonal of the rectangle or square to make sure that the corners are at 90 degrees.

Use a straight edge and a level on the tops of the formwork to ensure the screeding levels throughout.

Sand was used to take up some of the space so that less concrete was used. Trenches were left on the sides without sand to give a thickened edge of concrete so that it strengthens the slab.

Plastic was laid over the sand to give a moisture barrier and chairs were placed at 600mm intervals to support the reinforcing steel mesh. When using offcuts of mesh, it should be overlaid in joining sections of the mesh and tied with metal ties.

When concrete was put in place, a vibrating wand was used to settle the concrete and then two people using a straight edge, screeded the top of the concrete. A long handled float with a pivoting head can be hired for finishing larger slabs. A steel hand float was used for the final finish when the slab went off.

Stone walls and edging: Nigel set out the garden edging using a hose. A trench was built to half the size of the stone and the blocks were laid end to end without mortar.

The stone walls were then set out. The tall blocks were anchored in with concrete poured on both sides of the palisade wall.

Curved deck: When building a curved deck, first start by setting out for square deck then once the bearers are in place, use a flexible hose or conduit to mark out the curve desired. Then on marked positions, fix in noggins. Everything outside the noggins can then be sawn off, leaving the basic bearer structure for the curved deck. Lay decking boards over bearers overhanging enough so that the flexible conduit can be used to lay out the curve on the decking board. Once this is done, cut along the marked curve.

A brick edging was then laid around the curved deck. Bricks were laid on edge to give a better curve.



Shed: Sheds can be bought in flat pack (or kit) form, and a qualified tradesperson can assemble. There are many styles of shed available, our shed cost approximately \$7400.

Scottie fitted a prehung cedar door frame and doors. The insulating glass was then installed by a glazier.



Paving with cobblestone sheets: The base is prepared in the same manner as conventional paving, i.e. a layer of compacted roadbase to 100mm followed by a screeded level of paving sand to a depth of 50mm allowing a fall away from any building or structure to allow water to run off.

Sections of the cobblestone can be cut off with a blade or scissors and used to fill in any unusual shapes.

A combination dry sand and cement was swept into the gaps.

The garden: The fundamentals of any good cottage garden include many different plant species, lots of flowers, and curved lines. We chose plants that flower at various times of the year so the garden is always full of flower, summer or winter.

As the ground was very dry and compacted we had our machine operator 'Barnesy' turn our garden beds over and break up the harder areas to a depth of around 450mm. We then incorporated a good quality organic garden mix ready for planting.



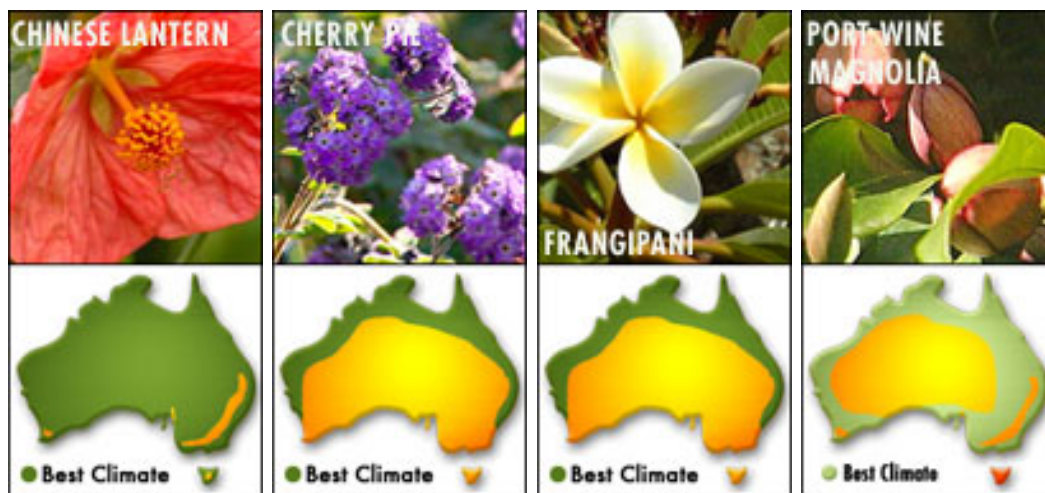
Plants

Trees: port wine magnolia (*Michelia figo*), frangipani (*Plumeria rubra* var. *acutifolia*), lemon-scented myrtle (*Backhousia citriodora*).

Shrubs and perennials: sweet violet (*Viola odorata*), french lavender (*Lavandula dentata*), chocolate mint (*Mentha x piperita* f. *citrata* 'Chocolate'), cherry pie (*Heliotropium arborescens*), gardenia (*Gardenia* 'Radicans'), gardenia (*Gardenia* 'Florida'), chinese lantern (*Abutilon x hybridum*), japanese box (*Buxus microphylla* var. *japonica*), sweet osmanthus (*Osmanthus fragrans*), sweet viburnum (*Viburnum odoratissimum*), peppermint geranium (*Pelargonium tomentosum*), wallflower (*Erysimum* 'Pastel Patchwork'), catmint (*Nepeta x frassenii*).

Roses: climbing rose (*Rosa* 'Crepuscule'), floribunda rose (*Rosa* 'Love Potion'), floribunda rose (*Rosa* 'Apricot Nectar'), climbing bourbon rose (*Rosa* 'Zephirine Drouhin').





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 \$32,452. The use of smaller plants would have reduced the cost to \$28,097.

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.
- All tools used are commonly available for hire, including the mini loader and the nail gun.
- All timber supplies and information come from Midcoast Timber Centres Website: www.midcoasttimber.com.au
- Limestone blocks and cobblestone sheets available from Somerstone Pty Ltd phone 1300 139 833 or visit www.somerstone.com.au for your closest store. Email: sales@somerstone.com.au
- Our shed came from Dial-a-shed, phone (03) 9720 1355 or visit www.dial-a-shed.com.au or email sales@dial-a-shed.com.au
- Canterbury windows supply timber windows and doors, phone 1800 104 444 or visit www.canterburywindows.com.au
- Our performance glazing and energy efficient windows came from Moen Glass, phone (03) 9728 3799 or visit www.moenglass.com.au
- Viewers in other states can direct further inquiries on performance glazing solutions to www.agga.org.au or call the Australian Glass & Glazing Association on 1300 138 279
- Solomit Strawboard, phone (03) 9793 3088 or visit www.solomit.com.au. Email: sales@solomit.com.au
- For more information on the Fairfield City Council's Alternative Waste Treatment Facility and Soil Mix, visit www.fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au and click on 'What's New' or phone (02) 9725 0285.

Holiday details for simulcast special

Evanslea B & B
146 Market Street
Mudgee NSW
Phone: (02) 6372 4116
Web: www.evanslea.com

Elton's Brasserie
81 Market Street
Mudgee NSW
Phone: (02) 6372 0772

Commercial Helicopters
347 Ulan Road
Mudgee NSW
Phone: (02) 6372 7622
Web: www.commercialhelicopters.com

Acknowledgements

Design by Col Brown and Don Burke. Construction by the Backyard Blitz team (all gardens are a gift from Backyard Blitz).

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