

BACKYARD BLITZ

Garden Gallery



Jill Clements is a mother and talented artist with a love of colour and Asian influences. Jill's daughters nominated her for a garden makeover to thank her for being their mum and also with hopes of meeting the Backyard Blitz team.

Good landscape design encourages visitors to venture into the garden. Landscape designer Andrew Davies from ICON Exteriors has created a welcoming and contemporary outdoor room using foliage contrast and an angular layout to highlight structural landscape elements. Mixed pavers, colourful screens and a dividing wall of outdoor shelving create a functional and private space in this small courtyard. Contrasting foliage colours grouped in massed plantings provide interest and create a relaxing garden tone.



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 access and delivery and storage of materials during the construction of your garden. All public areas should be kept clean and safe following the delivery and use of landscape materials.

Materials

The existing site was half covered with brick paving which was removed using a bobcat and stockpiled for reuse. Unwanted plants were removed and the site was levelled before starting on the set out.



Paving: existing brick pavers were lifted and recycled to create a paved path with inserts of concrete stepping stones from Wilsonstone (450x450x40mm). A central feature of concrete pavers was laid over compacted paving sand in the middle of the garden. No roadbase was used beneath these pavers as the bobcat excavated down to solid sandstone. Treated pine sleepers (2400x200x100mm) laid in a grid pattern provided a border and retained the pavers. Squares of shiny black pebbles (40-60mm) spread as a feature insert provided further interesting detail.

Blitz Tipz: The use of recycled house bricks from existing paved areas or demolition sites is a cost effective and attractive way to create a new paved area. When estimating the numbers of bricks you will need, allow 40 bricks per square metre.



Shelving: treated pine posts (H4, 90x90mm) installed inground in concrete combined with treated pine rails (70x45mm) and hardwood shelving (290x19mm) make an artistic feature wall and outdoor shelving unit. Builder Scott Cam has combined these elements to create a privacy wall that doubles as a display unit for the sheet metal art works and display pots. Steel bar stools and an adjustable red gum bar provide the perfect place to relax on a summer's evening.

Screens: simple screens have been created by nailing fibre cement sheeting (6mm, blueboard) to treated pine posts (H4, 90x90mm) installed in ground in rapid setting concrete. A coat of exterior acrylic paint from Bristol seals the blueboard and provides a contrasting background to the artwork. **Blitz Tipz:** Blueboard comes in a range of sizes and thicknesses. Choose one that best suits the finished size of your screens to reduce cost and waste.



Garden beds: the existing site soil was a rich sandy loam laid over a sandstone base. A commercial planter box mix consisting of 30% soil, 10% ash, 10% coarse washed sand, 10% Nepean sand, 20% composted sawdust was incorporated into the garden beds. This mix will promote good drainage and increase organic content in the soil and is perfect for the range of plants selected. A 75mm layer of eucalypt mulch was spread over the garden beds to retain soil moisture and reduce weed growth.

Timber edging: treated pine sleepers (H4, 2400x200x100mm) laid around an existing frangipani and along a raised area of garden bed provide a border and act as a low retaining wall. Sleepers have been squared off at each end and connected by skew nailing into each adjoining sleeper. Blitz Tipz: Wrap a length of perforated galvanised hoop iron around the perimeter of the sleepers and nail in place for extra strength.

Feature pots: large metallic coloured pots from Motjay potteries (800mm diameter) placed on low plinths house decorative pebbles and a feature plant. Plinths have been made from hebel blocks (600x200x200mm) and bonded using construction adhesive and hebel glue laid on a brick footing. The plinths have been bagged with a 4:1 mix of brickies sand and cement which helps to seal the hebel. Blitz Tipz: Hebel products last longer outdoors when sealed with paint, render or other surface finishes.



Plants

Colourful massed plantings of perennials and grass like plants will provide year round interest and an easy care garden.

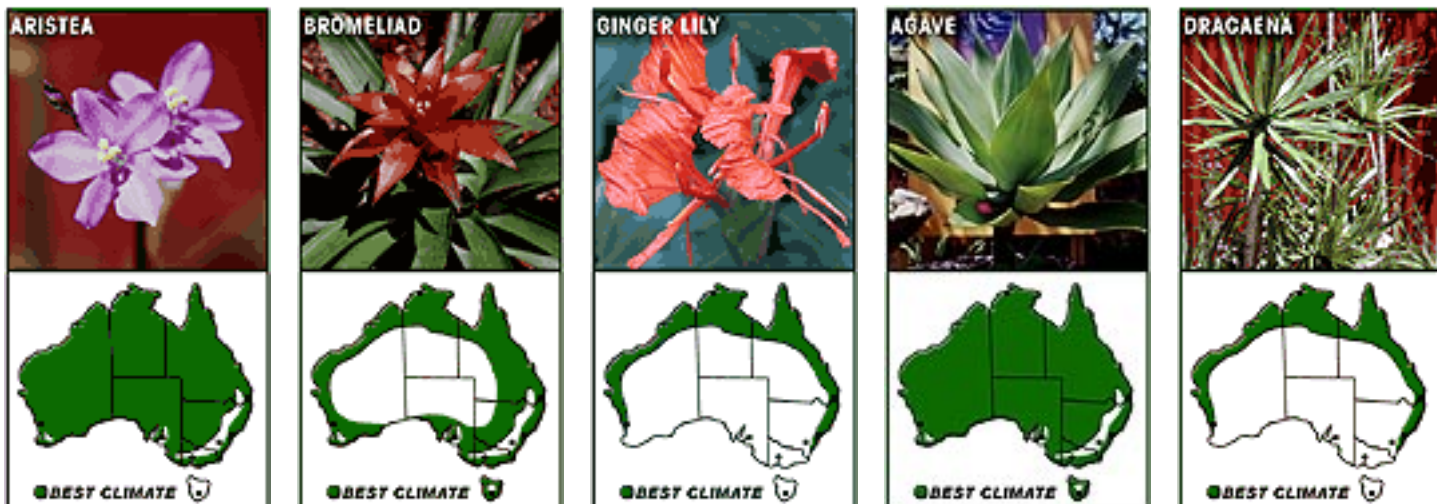
Trees: dracaena (*Dracaena marginata*)

Shrubs and perennials: bromeliad (*Aechmea hybrids*), dianella (*Dianella tasmanica 'Variegata'*), ginger lily (*Hedychium greenei*), agave (*Agave attenuata*) cast iron plant (*Aspidistra elatior 'Variegata'*) native iris (*Patersonia occidentalis*), aristeia (*Aristea ecklonii*)

Groundcovers: Moses in the basket (*Tradescantia spathacea*)

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 \$11,953. This cost could be reduced to \$9427 by using smaller plants.



Product details

- Aluminium art works were supplied by sign manufacturers Cuneen + Co. in Sydney. Phone: (02) 9637 9400 for details on this printing technique. Total cost of all artwork was \$2100.
- Large unit pavers from Wilsonstone (450x450x40mm) cost about \$14 each. Phone: (02) 4943 5479 for details on these and other pavers.
- Motjay Pottery in Sydney have a range of pots and large bowls including the metallic painted pots used on the plinths. Phone: (02) 9313 8866 for further information.
- Shining black pebbles cost \$60 per 20kg bag and are available through some landscape suppliers and nurseries.
- Most of the plants we used are readily available at nurseries. If not ask your nursery to order them or advise similar varieties suited to your area. You may need to contact specialist nurseries for some plants. Your local nursery should be able to provide contacts.
- Most other materials are available from large hardware stores, building or landscape suppliers. All tools used are commonly available for hire including the airless spray gun and the bobcat.

Getaway details

Accommodation:

Crowne Plaza Terrigal, Pine Tree Lane, Terrigal, NSW

Phone: (02) 4384 9111 or call central reservations on 1300 666 545

Alternatively view the website at www.crowneplaza.com

Acknowledgments

Design by Andrew Davies from ICON Exteriors

Phone: (02) 9635 9090 or view the website at iconext.com.au

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

For more Step by Step Constructions click here:



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Details on the fact sheets are accurate at the time of publishing, however prices and contact information are not updated and may change.