

BACKYARD BLITZ

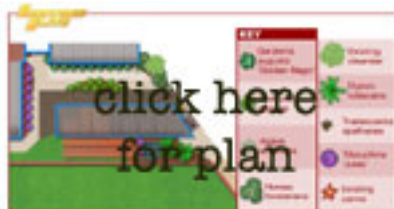
Blitz Goes Bowling!



The Brighton Beach Bowls Club is celebrating its Centenary in 2005. This year the members have appointed the first female president at the club in nearly 100 years – Corrie Van Der Zee. Corrie is keen to see the club grow and to welcome new members, especially the younger residents of the surrounding suburbs. She believes that lawn bowls is a young person's sport played by old people.



In a confusing twist it was actually Corrie who wrote to Backyard Blitz to request some help in improving the garden at the bowls club. The Blitz team politely declined her request so that we could turn the whole show around and surprise Corrie herself!



Design intent

Landscape designer, Jim Fogarty, has created a stylish design for the small, established space between the bowls club, the workshop and the railway line. Jim has retained existing features, such as the pergola, and incorporated a grandstand that doubles as a barbecue table. A new treatment on the old concrete, a trick of the eye painting and the whole space has been lifted into the 21st Century.

Design tip

Jim used local artists to create an image of the beach scene behind the club, which acts as a focal point within the garden. Try to tie your design in with the local environment to help create a sense of place.

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 required amounts of materials.

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 approvals: many garden structures, such as privacy screens and decks, require council approval. Always discuss your project with neighbours and the council prior to starting work. It may save you money and will help the project to run smoothly.

Getting started

As this was such a small area to work in, all of the clearout was carried out by hand. Jamie used the concrete saw to cut in garden beds while Nigel worked on the jackhammer to break up and clear away the concrete.

Garden elements

Grandstand: Scott knocked up a deck with a twist. The hardwood deck doubles as a set of bench seats to view the bowling action and also serves as a barbecue table for post match entertaining. Adjustable stirrups, connected to the existing concrete slab with dynabolts, (12x100mm) support 90x90mm posts. Bearers (140x45mm), nailed and bolted to the posts with galvanized cup-head bolts, (10x150mm) support noggins (140x45mm) nailed between each bearer. Merbau decking boards (70x20mm), fixed to the framework with stainless steel cup head nails fired from a nail gun, complete the seat. A coating of organ oil (also known as tung oil) enhances and preserves the natural colour of the timber.

Blitz Tipz: The step up in each bench measures 250mm, which is a comfortable seated position. It also allows the uppermost level to become a table at a good height to prepare food and drinks.



Paving: Nigel made a sinking concrete path safe and navigable by removing the concrete and installing new paving. A compacted layer of roadbase spread 100mm thick supports coarse washed paving sand spread as a bedding layer for the pavers. 400x400x40mm pavers from SVC were laid as the new pathway with a washed pebble surround. Grout sand swept between the pavers locks the whole job in place.

Blitz Tipz: No concrete haunch was required around this job as it was already surrounded by concrete.

Water feature: Jamie created a simple 'lawn bowls inspired' water feature by combining a pre-fabricated fibreglass pond shell, a galvanized trough and some old bowls. A sand-lined excavation holds the pond shell at ground level and the galvanized trough supports four bowls glued and screwed in place to prevent theft. A low-voltage, submersible pond pump forces water between the bowls to fall into the pond beneath before being recirculated through the pump. The pump is powered by a low-voltage, outdoor transformer plugged into a power point in the workshop.

Blitz Tipz: Ensure your pump is large enough to create enough flow through your feature, and to create the sound of trickling water if that is the aim

Trompe l'oeil: two local artists were employed to create a trompe l'oeil (or trick of the eye perspective painting) to hang on the existing workshop wall. Two sheets of compressed fibre cement were pre-sealed and the outline of the trompe l'oeil sketched. The artwork took about two days to create before taking pride of place in the garden as an impressive focal point.



Barbecue: Jamie built a support for the new barbecue with lightweight, aerated concrete blocks. Block walls built 800mm high support both the barbecue and pavers to act as a servery on either side. A bagged finish of yellow brickies sand and off-white cement provides an attractive top coat to the barbecue. Grey coloured caulk disguises the joints between pavers on either side of the barbecue and prevents food or grease from settling between pavers.

Blitz Tipz: Try to locate barbecues where they are protected from the sun and rain.



Pebble-mix: a new treatment applied to the existing concrete slab brings the whole area to life. A professional team applied a product called Pebble-mix. A primer applied to the newly cleaned slab enables a resin and pebble mix to be applied and smoothed to a level finish. This is a job best undertaken by experts as the finishing requires the skill of a tradesperson.

Blitz Tipz: The concrete slab must be dust and grease free and entirely dry before the pebble-mix is applied.



Garden beds: Jody improved the existing site soil by incorporating organic matter into the new garden areas. A 75mm thick layer of horticultural grade pine bark (15mm) mulch over planted areas will help to retain soil moisture, regulate soil temperature and prevent weed regrowth.

Blitz Tipz: Spread mulches between 50mm and 100mm thick over all planted areas other than turf, making sure that mulch is not piled up around the stems of plants.

Plants

The plant material was selected for hardiness in this exposed coastal position.

Palms: Kentia palm (*Howea forsteriana*), golden cane palm (*Dyopsis lutescens*)

Shrubs: gardenia (*Gardenia 'Golden Magic'*), tibouchina 'Jules' (*Tibouchina 'Jules'*)

Perennials: agave (*Agave attenuata*), bird-of-paradise (*Strelitzia reginae*)

Climber: mandevilla (*Mandevilla 'Red Fantasy'*)



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 \$9267. The use of smaller plants would have reduced the cost to \$6811.

Product details

- Pebble-mix is available in a range of colours and costs about \$50 per square metre, including installation. Phone (03) 9803 3344 for more information.
- The trompe l'oeil was created by Jim and Franka from F & J Aesthetics. Phone Franka on 0411 149 009 for more details.
- Pavers from SVC Pavers cost about \$8 each. Phone (03) 9580 6644.
- 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 concrete mixer and the nail gun.

Getaway details

Accommodation:

Lindenderry at Red Hill
142 Arthurs Seat Road
Red Hill 3937
Phone: (03) 5989 2933

Activities:

The Linden Tree Restaurant
(located at the Lindenderry at Red Hill)

Arthurs Seat Hotel
790 Arthurs Seat Scenic Road
Red Hill 3937
Phone: (03) 5981 4444

Max's Restaurant
(located at the Red Hill Estate)
53 Shoreham Road
Red Hill South
Phone: (03) 5931 0177

Acknowledgements

Design by Jim Fogarty Design Pty Ltd
Phone: 1300 888 916
Web: www.jimfogartydesign.com.au

© CTC Productions 6/2004

For more Step by Step Constructions click [here](#)

