

BACKYARD BLITZ

Double or Nothing



Terry and Joanne Smith have helped their neighbours Jim and Mary Reeves many times throughout their friendship. They invited them into their home during construction of their new townhouse and even nominated them for a Backyard Blitz makeover last year. The surprise was reversed when Jim and Mary returned the favour by nominating Terry and Joanne to thank them for their support over the years.

Designer John Happ from 3rd Dimension Designs created a Tuscan-style garden room using similar materials to those employed in the garden he designed for the Reeves next door. Large pavers provide a solid framework on the ground for this formal garden while fibre cement sheet screens block unsightly views and create a secluded garden space in this small backyard. Formal plantings of lilly pilly and port-wine magnolia will create fragrant and colourful living screens to the garden.



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: council permission is required to remove some trees, and may be required for some structural work. Check with your local council regarding regulations about fences and pergolas.

Getting started

At the beginning of the makeover this garden was a large area of grass with some perimeter planting and was overlooked by the mechanic's workshop next door. The Blitz team removed the grass with a bobcat, excavated areas to be paved and drilled post holes for the screen fencing.

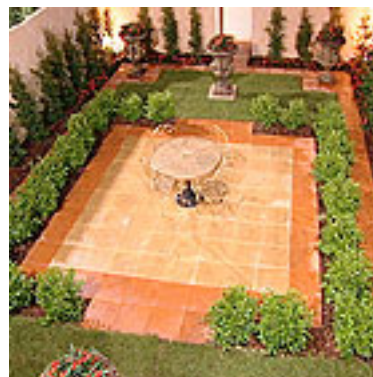
Materials

Paving: large unit pavers from Urbanstone (Donnybrook and Tuscan, 450x450mm) laid over compacted roadbase and paving sand are held in place with a rapid setting sand and cement haunch. A fine grouting sand (Sydney sand) swept through the top of the pavers helps to bond the various materials together.

Blitz Tipz: Ensure all organic material such as grass is removed from beneath areas to be paved before laying roadbase. If it is not removed, this organic material will slowly rot and your paving may sink.

Privacy screen: The screen frame for the fibre cement sheeting is comprised of treated pine posts (H4, 90x90mm) installed in-ground in concrete and support rails (H3, 70x35mm). Exterior grade fibre cement sheeting (6mm) is connected to the timber frame using galvanised clouts and plastic strip joints are used to cover the joins. The sheets are weatherproofed by painting with Tuscan Effects from Dulux.

Blitz Tipz: Fibre cement sheets come in a range of sheet sizes. Minimise wastage and save money by spacing your posts so that sheets meet at the middle of each post.



Garden beds: Jody improved the existing site soil by incorporating Botany-humus mix (made from recycled organics, coffee grounds and sawdust) into the garden beds. The finished soil level was raised to improve drainage. A 75mm layer of horticultural grade pine bark (15mm) was spread to reduce weed growth and aid in moisture retention.



Urns: aged ram's head urns placed on raised footings and planted out with Burke's Backyard chillies provide colourful focal points in the garden. Jamie constructed footings by mortaring concrete blocks (400x200x200mm) together onto a mortar base. The concrete blocks have been bagged with a 3:1 mix of yellow brickie's sand and cement to ensure that they blend with the pavers.



Outdoor setting: a cast iron table and chair setting spray painted gold adds a touch of elegance to the stylish entertaining area. Shade and privacy is provided by a large blue canvas umbrella (3m diameter) supported in a cast metal base.

Blitz Tipz: Moveable shade structures provide much needed shelter in summer and can be removed so that you receive welcome winter sunshine.

Plants

Repetition of a small number of outstanding plants define the style and feel of this garden.

Tree: scrub cherry (*Syzygium australe*)

Shrub: port-wine magnolia (*Michelia figo*)

Perennials: New Guinea impatiens (*Impatiens 'Bonfire Orange'*), Burkes Backyard Chillies (*Capsicum annum*)

Turf: kikuyu (*Pennisetum clandestinum*)

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 \$11,492. This cost could be reduced to \$8833 by using smaller plants.



Product details

- Large unit concrete pavers (450x450mm) from Urbanstone cost \$58 per square metre. Phone NSW State office for further information on (02) 9757 4644.
- Large ram's head urns cost \$210 each from Menduni Garden Artistry in Sydney. Phone (02) 9798 5155 for details on these and other products.
- Fibre cement sheeting (6mm, villaboard) is available from large hardware outlets from about \$45 for a 2400x1200mm sheet.
- Tuscan Effects from Dulux cost \$68 for 4 litres.
- Shelta provided the stylish large blue canvas umbrella. They cost about \$620 including the steel base.
- Most of the plants we used are readily available at nurseries. If not, ask your nursery to order them for you or to advise you of 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 for you.
- Most other materials are available from large hardware stores and building or landscape suppliers.
- All tools used are commonly available for hire including the bobcat and the nail gun.

Getaway details

Accommodation:

Novotel Beachcomber
18 Hanlan St
Surfers Paradise
Phone: (07) 5570 1000

Tours:

Grumpy's Wharf
60 - 70 Sea World Drive
The Spit
Phone: (07) 5532 9165

Acknowledgement





Design by:
John Happ
3rd Dimension Designs
Phone: (02) 9744 2658

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

For more **Step by Step Constructions** click here:



© Burke's Backyard 2003

Burke's Backyard and Backyard Blitz do not accept payment to promote products. All recommendations are genuine.

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