

BACKYARD BLITZ

It Could Be You



In a first ever for Backyard Blitz, the team decided to turn up on the doorstep of an unsuspecting Aussie family and surprise them at the start of the show. Jamie and the team chose a house in Adelaide at random. They knocked on the door of Jamie and Maree Khoo, for a very special program. They even caught Maree by surprise in her pyjamas and pink socks! Aunty Rosemary came to the rescue and moved in to look after their three young children, Briana, Alison and Andrew while Scotty headed off to the Australian Tax Office to talk Jamie's boss into giving him a few days off work. Jamie and Maree were whisked off by helicopter and flown to the Barossa Valley to spend a couple of days relaxing, while the Backyard Blitz team were left to weave their magic in the garden.



Design intent

Landscape designer, Jamie Durie, had his work cut out for him on this project. In only a few hours he had to generate a brief with the client, design the garden, draw a plan and provide a materials schedule from which the team could order. Jamie created a design that provides space for all members of the family to enjoy the garden. A new pergola covers a paved area at the side of the house, while a romantic, wisteria-covered arbour and boardwalk provides a destination point in the garden. Flowering trees and shrubs provide privacy and scale to the space, with a lush new lawn area for the kids to play.

Design ideas

Small gardens that can be seen in a glance can be boring. Jamie divided the garden into rooms, making this small garden seem larger by creating intimacy and an air of mystery. The arbour acts as both a physical and visual barrier, separating the living areas from the working areas of the herb garden and cubby house.

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: Check with your local council regarding regulations about structures in the backyard. Always talk to your neighbours and the council before commencing your project as it could save you thousands of dollars and will help to make the project run smoothly.

Getting started

A bobcat was used to scrape the grass off the built upon areas and to excavate for the paving and turf. A mini excavator pushed the fill to the rear corner of the house and the bobcat moved it out to the skip bin.

Garden elements

Pergola: Pink primed, treated pine was used for all structural components of the pergola. Galvanised stirrups installed vertically in the ground in quick setting concrete support 88x88mm posts. Beams (230x42mm) were nailed in place, and then bolted to the posts with galvanised cup head bolts (150x10mm). Rafters (140x42mm) were housed out to sit on top of the beams and to meet at the central ridge. Battens (90x42mm) nailed to the top of the rafters support the clear polycarbonate roofing.

Blitz Tipz : Pre-paint all timbers when they are on the ground. You get a better quality finish and it is much safer.

Paving: Nigel laid New Dimension 400 limestone coloured pavers from Best Bricks and Pavers over a bed of compacted roadbase and coarse washed river sand. Grout sand was swept through the gaps in the pavers and a concrete haunch installed around the perimeter of the path to lock the job in place.

Blitz Tipz : Use a fine, kiln dried sand to sweep between your pavers as it will fall easily into place.

Arbour: Large dimension recycled hardwood timbers (225x225mm posts and 150x150mm beams) have been combined with treated pine sleepers to form a romantic wisteria covered boardwalk and arbour. The recycled timber posts installed vertically in ground in concrete and support beams attached with reinforcing steel rod. Treated pine sleepers (2400x200x75mm) laid on edge as bearers support sleepers above laid perpendicular to the bearers. Galvanised decking spikes (150mmx5.6mm) hold the boardwalk together.

Blitz Tipz : Always check recycled timbers for nails and other connectors before sawing into them.

Sleeper planters: Jamie built some raised planters to create level changes and interest along a boundary fence. Treated pine sleepers (2400x100x75mm) cut in half were nailed together to form squares. The squares were then stacked on top of each other and nailed together to support soil and plants within.

Blitz Tipz : Sleepers may twist and change dimension when exposed to weather. Hoop iron is a simple piece of hardware that will help to minimise this movement.

Garden beds: Jody improved the existing sandy site soil by incorporating organic soil mix into the new garden beds. Organic mulches were used to help retain soil moisture, maintain soil temperature and reduce weed growth.

Blitz Tipz : Use different mulches to define different zones within the garden.

Driveway: A bobcat and operator excavated the driveway area to accommodate a 100mm layer of crushed recycled concrete. This was moistened and compacted with the plate compactor to provide a solid foundation for the 10mm marble chip spread over the top.

Blitz Tipz : Gravel driveways sound great under foot and are permeable, meaning less water runoff from your block into the storm water system.



Ezy-deck: Jamie laid a great looking entertaining area right outside the back door using Ezy-deck. Ezy-deck is a timber paving product that utilises off-cuts from other timber products, and it is simple to install. Best results are achieved by laying over a solid substrate, such as a concrete slab, with a slight fall to encourage water to drain away from beneath.

Plants

Trees: magnolia 'Little Gem' (*Magnolia grandiflora* 'Little Gem'), pittosporum (*Pittosporum tenuifolium* 'Screenmaster')

Shrubs: calamondin (*x Citrofortunella microcarpa*), port wine magnolia (*Michelia figo*), pride of Madeira (*Echium candicans*), hebe (*Hebe 'La Seduisante'*), oyster plant (*Acanthus mollis*), lavender (*Lavandula stoechas* 'Bee Brilliant'), euphorbia (*Euphorbia characias* subsp. *Wulfenii*)

Annuals & perennials : pansy (*Viola x wittrockiana* hybrid), nemesia (*Nemesia caerulea*), hellebore (*Helleborus orientalis*), fan flower (*Scaevola aemula* 'Fan Dancer'), November lily (*Lilium longiflorum*), Oriental lily (*Lilium* Oriental Hybrids) blue marguerite (*Felicia amelloides* 'Golden Sapphire'), stattice (*Limonium perezii*), sphaeralcea (*Anisodonteia capensis* 'Priscilla Pink'), clivia (*Clivia* Belgian Hybrid)

Ferns: bird's nest fern (*Asplenium nidus*), silver lady blechnum (*Blechnum gibbum* 'Silver Lady'), tree tree fern (*Cyathea* 'Kalgoorlie Gold')



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 \$21,385. The use of smaller plants would have reduced the cost to \$17,816.

Product details

- Nigel laid New Dimension 400 - Weathered Limestone pavers from Best Masonry Bricks and Pavers in Adelaide. Phone (08) 8262 6614 for more details.
- Timber pontoons are made from treated pine sleepers (2400x200x75mm) which cost about \$20 each and are available from good timber yards and landscape suppliers.
- Large dimension recycled timbers were sourced from Adelaide and Rural Salvage. Phone (08) 8345 4799 for more information on their huge range of recycled and salvaged timbers.
- 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.



Getaway details

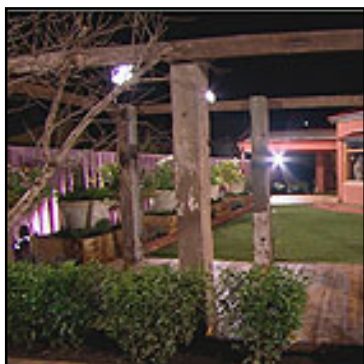
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Construction by the Backyard Blitz team (all gardens are gifts from Backyard Blitz).

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