

Creating a New Garden

By: Melinda Sperl

Even though landscaping is my profession, I am a gardener at heart. I love nothing better than to see new blooms in the spring but I have to keep my customers preferences into account at work. The hardest part is to look at what is already there and envision what could be. Sometimes the projects can be quite large or challenging and the best advice I can give is to take a large project by small segments to make the whole. An example would be if you see a perfect setting for a water feature, then you can design the entire landscape around that one theme. When there are children in the house I think of teaching them about butterfly's and birds so I will create a children's garden with plenty of plants to attract wildlife.

The important thing is to find the one part of the landscape that makes you happy and start from that. If color is your thing then choose plants that will give you color all year long. Not a color lover? Then incorporate different textures and shapes of plants. A totally green yard can be monotonous but by varying the shades of green and the shapes of the plants you can create an interesting landscape. I like to put grasses around air conditioners because in the still of the summer it is nice to see a plant sway in the wind.

Another item that can wake up a landscape is stone. Boulders in the beds, stacked stone borders or even rock fountains can be natural looking and really give your yard a completed look. Don't forget lighting so you can also see the beauty you created at night.

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