



Landscape Ideas You Can Use

How to Choose **Structures, Surfaces & Plants**
That Transform Your Yard

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Suburban Subtle



Venture Off The Beaten Path.

A way to break out of the confines of homeowner association rules and the oversight of neighbors is to include an unusual element in your landscape. Pick one that isn't too far out that it draws glares, but is distinctive enough to set your home apart. Irregularly spaced stepping stones sunk into the grass is an innovative front walk for this house—unique but not strange, and a providing great visual impact for such a small feature.

Medium Landscapes



Make Magic With Multiple Levels.

This two-story beige house lacks design appeal with an unimaginative bed of generic shrubs along a nondescript concrete walkway. The new landscape incorporates a dynamic raised bed, curving pathway between driveways and entrance, and a compelling composition of trees, shrubs, and blooming annuals.

Create more drama in a med-size flat landscape by developing different levels.



Hardscape Paths



Neat Prefers Neat.

Trim, neat, and well-sculpted landscape plantings beg for a hardscape surface that echoes those qualities. This brick bridge between the asphalt of a circular driveway and the slate of the entryway is an alluring creamy red that is just understated enough to work with all the plants surrounding the front door. It's also a great way to transition from the undistinguished appearance of the driveway, to the elegant mottled gray of the front steps.

Fireplaces and Fire Pits



Fire Pits Add Fun And Function.

This backyard corner was neglected and largely unused space before the designer reorganized it. Adding hardscaping in the form of a patio, path, and stone border defined the different areas of use, and a built-in fire pit adds a nice welcoming feature to the patio. The fire pit includes a wide stone lip to hold beverages and food, making the area even more usable. Adding a modest fire pit like this to a stone patio is a fairly simple matter – and something worth considering if you’re putting in a brand-new outdoor surface.