

ENJOYING THE GREAT OUTDOORS

BY DANIEL G. JACOBS MANAGING EDITOR

WITH AN AVERAGE 265 days of sunshine a year, it's no wonder these homeowners wanted an outdoor space to enjoy their Carson City, NV, home. But with summer temperatures averaging near 90° F., a livable space meant incorporating mature trees with a new back yard.

Outdoor Environments of Nevada got an unexpected assist when the homeowners decided to renovate the residence.

An extension took the home deeper into the back yard and, essentially, eliminated the existing landscaping, says Sara Anderson, owner of the 5-year-old, Reno-based firm.

The project was completed in two phases, beginning with the back yard, which was basically dug up during the addition to the home.

"They ripped all of the grass out of the back yard," Anderson says. "There

After a home renovation destroyed the Russell residence yard, Outdoor Environments went to work and earned two awards for redesigning and rebuilding the front and back yards.

was a lot of construction and demolition. There's also a dry creek that runs through there. We installed grass that flowed in and over the dry creek. We wove the grass and the beds through the dry creek."

The company also installed lighting in many of the 30- to 35-ft. trees providing shade in both the front and back of the home.

The work earned the company the Nevada Landscape Association's (NLA's) 2008 President's Trophy. The

Outdoor Environments saved the mature trees in this construction-disturbed backyard (right) and added a patio and turfgrass (above).

more than \$100,000 project, which covered about an acre also earned Outdoor Environments the NLA's lighting award.

But it wasn't easy. Construction of the





AWARD WINNER

home addition wreaked havoc on a lot more than just the grass.

"The back yard took us a month because we had to build small walls, design drainage and the patio, and run all-new irrigation," Anderson says. "It was time-consuming. It's easier to start from scratch. When you're trying to redo stuff it's more time-consuming."

Outdoor Environments installed a large water feature in the back yard. Eight employees worked on the project — the back yard in the fall of 2007 and the front yard in the winter of 2008.

In addition to grass, Outdoor Environments installed irrigation systems in the front and back of the property (Carson City gets more snow, 22 in. per year, than rain, 12 in.). One difficulty was meshing what remained on the grounds with the homeowner's desire for a livable space in the back yard.

"The back part of the property was planted, but it wasn't utilized," Anderson says. "We used the shade so in the heat of the summer the client has a nice, cool patio area. We used the (existing) orchard with boulders and herbal plantings. But there's also patio area with full sun."

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This dry creek bed gave the Reno, NV-based landscape company an attractive landscape feature, which delighted the homeowners.



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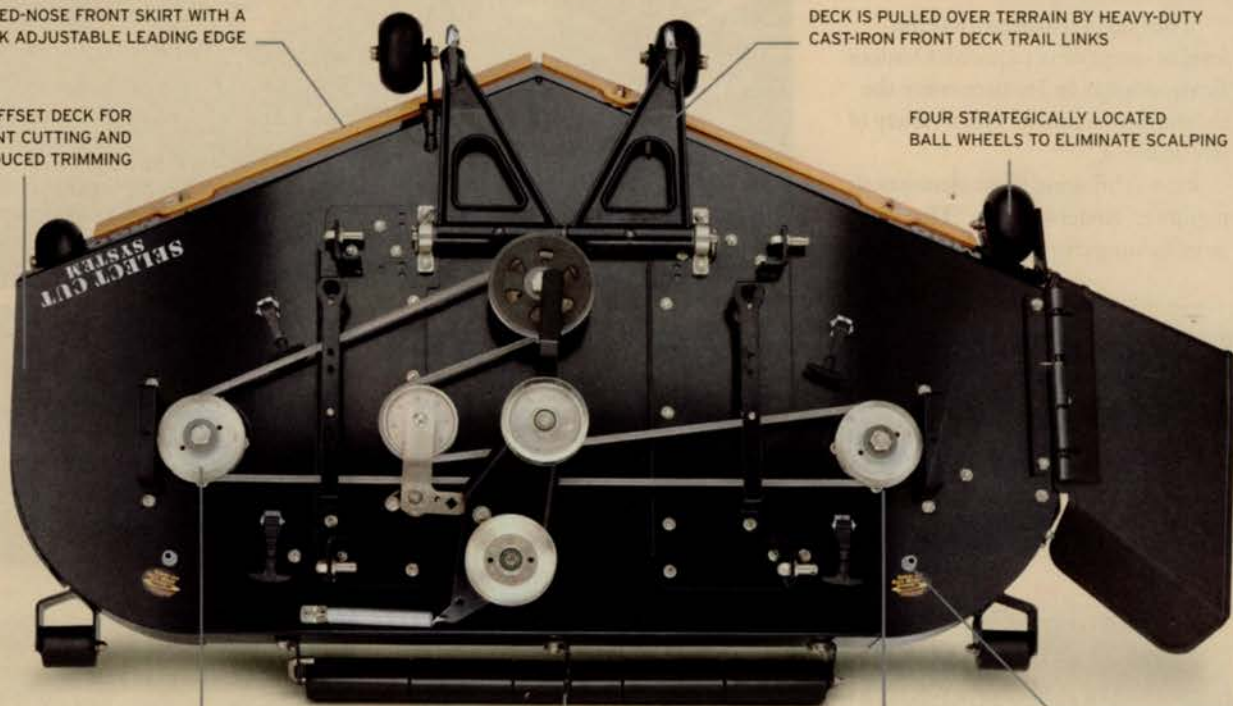
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The front edge is up so that seed stems and grass blades rebound into the cutting edge for a cleaner, even cut.



AWARD WINNER

continued from page 52

The biggest challenge was the level of integration required. Outdoor Environments had to harmonize the existing environment with a variety of new features.

"It was bringing those elements all together," Anderson says. "They have large existing trees, 30 ft. to 35 ft. tall.



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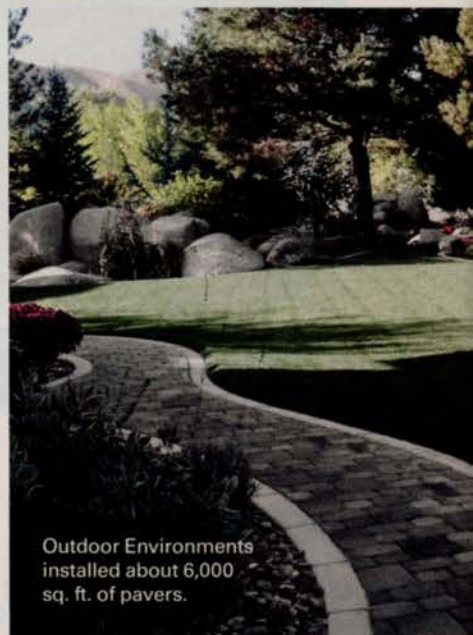
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Outdoor Environments installed about 6,000 sq. ft. of pavers.

It was utilizing all the things that were there and incorporating new plant materials, grass areas and patio areas, while making the yard function in a different way."

Included in the many elements in this project was the installation of a new driveway, which Anderson subcontracted. That part of the project entailed ripping out asphalt and installing 6,000 sq. ft. of pavers.

"The driveway took us three to four weeks," Anderson says.

While the back yard required the bulk of the changes, Outdoor Environments also addressed the front yard.

"We put in new sprinklers in the front," Anderson says. "There were only two planters that we changed out there. The rest of it we left remaining.

"We only changed out the things that really needed to be taken out and replaced." LM



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PROJECT PORTFOLIO

A SCRAPBOOK OF DESIGN/BUILD OVERHAULS

Extreme yard makeover

THE MISSION

The long-neglected landscape of an Atlanta Arts & Crafts property gets spruced up with a new pool and some special extras.

“What an opportunity to work with such a dynamic piece of property, wonderful clients, and beautiful pieces of architecture,” enthuses Adam Huber, who designed and led this installation project. He is a landscape architect with Roswell, GA-based Ed Castro Landscape, and worked on the project with colleague Melda Sertkaya.

The home’s new owners had decided that their overgrown landscape was in “desperate need” of a new strategy, Huber says. To that end, the project focused on simple, clean lines and contrasting areas.

A pool, several outdoor terraces and a new overflow parking area were installed, as were a front meadow with a grass paver system and a play lawn. Lighting was also added.

Stepping stone paths with gravel in between link the pedestrian circulation throughout the property. A side yard terrace provides a transition area and blends well with the natural woodland feel throughout, while masses of plantings add a colorful foreground to the distant pool setting.

Although the challenges on this project were relatively few, proper drainage was an issue along the frontage of the property. This was handled by installing a dry creek bed. As an extra measure, the adjacent overflow parking area has a gravel base with special soils, creating an eco-friendly grass paver area.

The clients were pleased with the transformation. “This outdoor environment will be enjoyed for many years to come,” Huber adds.



THE WORK



1 | STONE PATIO. The front of the home now features a large Norway spruce and an inviting stone terrace, comprised of a large piece of bluestone set on mortar pads with low ground cover between.

2 | FROM DEAD SPACE TO COOL POOL. An overgrown and unusable area next to the existing "Little House" (see inset) lent itself to a potential pool location. The contrasting colors in the pool area now have a dramatic effect. Note the low-to-ground seating boulders brought into the terrace.

3 | MAKING THE GRADE. Granite walls that match existing materials on site were constructed to level the pool terrace area. Before, there was a distinct difference in grade.

4 | KEEPING DRY. A dry creek bed was created to handle a wet area on the property, while the grass paver system serves as overflow guest parking. Drainage was the main challenge with this project.

5 | OVERFLOW PARKING. An area next to the garage was reclaimed to serve as an additional pervious parking area, with a granite wall added. Now the homeowners can do more entertaining without having to worry about guest parking.



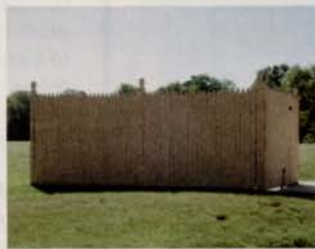
Ed Castro Landscape offers design, construction, maintenance and horticultural services for the Greater Atlanta market. Founded in 1992, the company has more than 85 employees and focuses on high-end residential — although its team works with a wide variety of clients and budgets. This project was a Merit Winner in the Professional Landcare Network's (PLANET's) 39th annual Environmental Improvement Awards program and Grand Award winner for the 2008 MALTA (Metro Atlanta Landscape & Turf Association) Professional Landscape Awards. For more information, visit www.landcarenetwork.com.

PROBLEMSOLVER

LANDSCAPE TROUBLESHOOTING TIPS » BY H. BRUCE HELLERICK

PROBLEM

Many property owners want to hide their garbage dumpsters, electrical boxes and other infrastructure features from plain sight. There is a right way and a wrong way to provide attractive screening without drawing undue attention to these areas. Unnatural spacing between ornamental plantings is a common issue.



SOLUTION

Most times doing nothing around these features is the best answer. Doing nothing allows the eye to pass over the feature. Far too many times, contractors add a single line of plants around the outside of the structure. Such a display of neatly pruned or sheared shrubs only serves to draw your eye toward the very feature you are trying to de-emphasize.

A better approach is to install three to five plants in a more naturalized planting scheme. This has the desired effect of allowing the eyes to pass over and through the area. Planting this way makes a necessary but undesirable feature blend with the surrounding landscape.

Every day you see horticultural problems. Sometimes the solution is obvious, but others are much more difficult to solve. Brickman Group Senior Horticulture Specialist H. Bruce Hellerick tackles these issues each month in Problem Solver. He can be reached at Hellerick@BrickmanGroup.com.

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IA RE-ENERGIZES WITH NEW LOGO, TAGLINE

The recent 2008 Irrigation Show was jammed with events and products to address growing concern over water issues. BY **RON HALL** EDITOR-AT-LARGE

AS CONCERNS OVER water issues, especially landscape irrigation, accelerates the Irrigation Association (IA) is stepping up its efforts to meet these concerns.

The IA, during its recent 2008 Irrigation Show in Anaheim, CA, unveiled a new logo and tagline — “Smart practices. Sustainable solutions” — which is the most visible signal of the IA’s mission and its members’ commitment to efficient water management.

The scuttling of the previous logo and tagline after 30 years also points to the IA’s growing focus on the Green Industry.

This was reinforced by the larger presence of landscape- and golf-focused suppliers over agricultural irrigation suppliers at the trade show, which attracted 340 exhibiting companies.

The new logo design, with its stylized green leaf and the blue drop, emphasizes the growing cooperation between the living plant industry and water agencies for water management best practices.

“As we expand our efforts to promote efficient irrigation and the importance of working with irrigation experts, we need a brand that helps policymakers, consumers and those outside the irrigation industry understand who we are and what we’re about,” said incoming IA President Stephen W. Smith, CEO of Aqua Engineering in Fort Collins, CO.

The IA’s new officers and board members (and the industry in general) face a number of water-related issues and pro-

grams during 2009, which was reflected in the brutally full schedule of educational sessions, committee and strategy meetings at the conference. More than 500 attendees attended educational sessions and certification exams.

Making WaterSense

One of the larger presences at the conference was the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) WaterSense program. Its broad goal, which it promotes by attracting partners and labeling water-efficient products, is to save water and protect the environment.

In the three years since its launch, the program has attracted hundreds of “partners” — contractors, water agencies, governmental bodies and supplier companies. Landscape professionals can become WaterSense partners when they’re certified through one of four IA certification programs.

During the IA’s business meeting, the EPA recognized Timothy Malooly, as its WaterSense Irrigation Partner of the Year. Malooly is president of Irrigation Consultants as well as Control and Irrigation by Design, two related irrigation

The WaterSense Irrigation Partner of the Year, Tim Malooly, left, is congratulated by Wayne Nastri, U.S. EPA Region 9 Administrator.

firms in Plymouth, MN. His companies designed and installed the water-efficient irrigation system for the first residential project to receive Platinum certification from the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) program.

Grower issues

Also during the 2008 show, the IA held its second annual Grower Forum, attracting nearly 100 industry professionals. A panel of five water and environmental experts discussed water reliability challenges facing California’s farmers, the role of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta in the water supply for the state’s growing population as well as the need for efficient water use by all sectors, and new water storage and conveyance.

The Forum was co-hosted by the California Agricultural Irrigation Association and sponsored by John Deere Water Technologies.

For expanded coverage of the IA’s 2008 Irrigation Show, visit www.landscapemanagement.net. LM



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