



*Great Ideas
Come in
Small Packages*

Creating a Backyard Sanctuary

As the days lengthen, expanding our living space to create an outdoor “room” provides a relaxing gathering spot for entertaining or lazing around with a book after the chores are completed. The first priority is to provide comfortable seating. Teak or metal furniture requires a larger investment than plastic lawn chairs, but it will last for many more seasons of use. If you don’t see an attractive fabric pad at the store, ask your decorator to show you the durable fabrics now available through Sunbrella® for outdoor use. There are even fabrics that can be used for drapes to provide privacy or shade around a porch, hot tub or gazebo.

End tables can be constructed with big terracotta pots topped with slabs of slate or glass. Fill the pots halfway with sand or river rocks so that they will be stable. Wooden cubes of teak or redwood can also provide a place to put your wine glass.

Block unattractive views with a trellis or tall plants. You can also guide the eyes to find an attractive sight line by placing a series of colorful plantings that converge on the best view. Using plants of all the same color is more dramatic than mixing colors. Put seeds under the soil of larger plants so you can have blooms through the fall.

Water features are the best way to add a dramatic yet relaxing element to your garden. From small goldfish ponds that can be set on top of the patio to recycling streams and “pond-less” waterfalls, there are lots of low maintenance ideas to choose from. You can have a stream bed with several small waterfalls installed professionally in your back yard in a day, but plan to spend several thousand more dollars to improve the surrounding yard so that the placement of the stream looks natural. If you haven’t got much space in your yard or on your deck you can have a ceramic pot or vase adapted to provide a recycling water feature for several hundred dollars. Two businesses on the Peninsula, Brookside Gardens and The Ripple Effect, specialize in residential water features.

A well- planned patio and yard will provide pleasure throughout the year. As Dorothy says in the movie the Wizard of Oz, “There’s no place like home.”

Contact Jean Cary Interiors at 650-593-9622