

GARDENS Four Seasons

GARDENDESIGN

March/April 2019

MAKE your YARD say WELCOME!



To dig one's own spade
into one's own earth!
Has life anything better
to offer than this?

Beverley Nichols

Sure seems like that doesn't it Beverley?

*Just spent some time in my own garden pruning back Silver
Brocade Artemisia & the scent of the soil & musky sage
eliminated any traces of stress I had!*

OKAY - go stand out in front of your house today & critique it. No, seriously, go outside & take a good long look - taking in all the best aspects & all the bad.

Does it feel inviting?
or could it use just a tweak or two to add that sense?

Trust me - there are far more ways to create that



Welcoming effect aside
from simply adding a
welcome mat!



Let's take a look at a
few of the ideas I've
come up with to create
that hospitable sense.

PATHS

Access to your front door should be immediately identifiable (ie: no overgrown bushes obscuring views or convoluted walkways.) There should be only one clear pedestrian Path, either from the front street or the driveway, so eliminate any any secondary ones - even if they are just a trail worn in the lawn.

I recommend a minimum width of at least 3' - 4' with 5' being the best option. It allows two people to stroll along without feeling crowded & creates an open, welcoming experience.



- stunning local front yard featured on a NEST Garden Tour

MOVEMENT

The shape of your Path should lead the viewer's eye toward your front door but also create a sense of 'visual' movement by using gently sweeping arcs or straight lines & angles to create your borders. A Walkways's shape is the start of your traffic flow & plays an important part of the structure of your garden plan.



- I planned this new residence awhile ago but you can just sense the 'movement' simply by looking at the side yard curving up to the front entrance.

SPLASHES of COLOUR add YEAR ROUND INTEREST

Play up the hue or texture of your home's exterior finish with colourful containers (year-round interest) or a unique plant such as a Yellow-Variegated Dogwood (red bark for Winter & Spring followed by yellow-green leaves thru' Summer & a touch of orange on the foliage come Fall! (see PLANT of the MOMENT further below!)



COURTYARD

Consider the romantic appeal of a small front Courtyard. This luxe touch can work in almost any size lot. Show off a recirculating water feature or create an intimate spot to enjoy your vista sitting on a comfy garden bench.



- this was a landscape my son Orion & I collaborated on for a Showhome - just wanted to sit in that courtyard & enjoy the sunshine!

GATE ARBOUR

A strategically placed Gate Arbour leading to a side yard adds not only charm but adds a sense of mystery - is this the way to the back or simply a trompe loeil (trick of the eye) & it leads nowhere? Placing the Arbour at an angle to the street prevents passersby from seeing directly thru' it thereby adding to the intrigue.



PRESENTATION

Presentation really IS everything. First impressions are not just for those wishing to sell their homes. Ensure your landscape stays well groomed & healthy. This proudly says the property belongs to a person who takes delight in their yard but also wants to share the beauty with the entire neighbourhood.



Well, I hope I've motivated you to add some welcoming features to your front scenery, if you haven't already.

I'd LOVE to hear some of the ways you make your main entrance feel welcoming - send me your thoughts & they may show up in the next issue of GARDENDESIGN!



READER FEEDBACK

Responses from last issue's **GARDENDESIGN**.....

“Your newsletter is always so beautiful and this one is no exception! As you know, I’m not a gardener but I love going through it every issue. Good job!” - Donna C.

& speaking of **Reader Feedback** - has **GARDENDESIGN** inspired you to try something in your piece of paradise? I would love to see what you’ve done with any of the ideas I’ve shared over the years.



Drop me a line along with a pic & we can share our triumphs!

JUST A THOUGHT

As much as I appreciate our early Spring, I like to speed Mother Nature along.

I clipped a few branches of Poplar to bring inside & take great pleasure watching the buds swell to begin producing some greenery.

Try it for yourself
- it is one of the new
'haute' ways to add some
life to your decor. If you
clip fruit tree branches or
even have the chance to
get your hands on some
Forsythia - you'll be
rewarded with a burst of
leaves & blossoms in no
time at all!



PLANT OF THE MOMENT

YELLOW VARIEGATED DOGWOOD

- *Cornus alba* 'Gouchaultii'

The colourful Summer leaves of this Dogwood turn a bit orangey in the Fall & then for Winter effect you have the red branches in stark contrast to pristine snow.



Dogwoods tolerate some shade as long as they have plenty of space around them for air movement - however they are happiest & colour up more intensely in the full sun.



Reaching a height of around 5' - 6' - they are a marvelous contrast to any other foliage shade. They thrive on moisture but will do well in a drought tolerant garden, once established.

Magnifico!



DESIGN BRILLIANCE

Driftwood in the Garden



Everyone loves the texture & grizzled look of a good piece of Driftwood - it becomes a treasure in a Garden & can be left out year 'round. Check along our riverbank or up at a lake for interesting pieces. Even a woodland walk can produce amazing chunks of decaying logs.

Use your imagination & nestle them amongst plants in your beds. Ensure the size is proportionate - too big & it can look overwhelming - too small & it gets lost in the foliage.



Mother Nature provides us not only with a relaxing outing to search for that perfect specimen but also free garden decor.

Brilliant!



MAY/JUNE 2019 GARDENDESIGN

affords us the opportunity of looking at SHADE in a whole new light (*see what I just did? ;)*

GARDENDESIGN BACK ISSUES are available for the asking!

HOUSE NUMBERS (more exciting than it sounds & a unique way to add a receptive touch to your main entrance :)

COURTYARDS

PLANTS as DECOR

Just shoot me an email
& I will send them
directly to your inbox!



Feel free to forward this to any friends!

(or they can email me to request their own copy!)

DID YOU KNOW? - I never, Ever, EVER share my email list - NEVER! :)

* to UNSUBSCRIBE from GARDENDESIGN please reply to this email with NO THANKS!
