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Garden Furniture
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Patio Makeover

Dear *Outdoor Spaces*:

These two pictures are of areas we use often at our house. The first shows the patio, which is between our detached garage and house (the kitchen side). We use this space for entertaining and grilling, and it's the first thing you see as you come up the driveway. There is not much privacy other than a fence dividing our property from the next-door neighbor's yard, located behind the grill. Landscapers have told me I could use plants to create a visual screen for a cheap privacy fix.

The second picture shows the side of the house, where we currently store junk and have a trash and recycling area. My four children's bikes are often stashed in this narrow area when we are entertaining outside. I would love to see more plantings here; however, sunlight is a bit of an issue because it is shaded by two houses and a dogwood tree.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

—Janna Conybeare
Eastchester, New York



Dear Janna,

Our design for your new outdoor entertaining area has a more defined grilling station, with extra counter space for serving platters and drinks, and we moved it closer to the kitchen door as a built-in. We changed the black iron railing near the family room to match the white-painted wood railing by the kitchen entry. We added a new white-painted cedar arbor over the garage door and a matching one over a new gate to your side-yard storage area to help screen the recycling bins and keep the kids' bikes organized and out of sight. Colorful flowering vines wrap both painted arbors, and new evergreen screening trees provide privacy from the house next door.

We opened up the seating area with a deep-seated, all-weather wicker lounge set and outdoor rug to tie it all together. A new painted-wood window box adds colorful annuals to the wall and opens up more floor space for less clutter in this outdoor room. We also placed round containers on the kitchen steps to add color, soften the hardscape, and break up the linearity of the space.

New plantings include evergreen emerald green arborvitae for screening, trumpet vine and clematis for the arbors, and assorted seasonal annuals for the window box and containers. Enjoy your new outdoor entertaining area!

Robert Welsch
Westover Landscape Design, Inc.
westoverld.com





Plantings:

- Emerald green arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis* 'Emerald Green'), Zones 2-7
- Trumpet vine (*Campsis radicans*), Zones 4-10
- Clematis 'Jackmanii', Zones 4-8
- Assorted seasonal annuals: begonia, angelonia, lantana, ferns, etc.

Budget:

- Outdoor grill and countertop for serving: \$5,500-\$6,000
- New painted cedar arbors, gate, and railing for porch: \$3,500-\$4,000
- New all-weather outdoor seating: \$2,500-\$3,000
- Outdoor rug: \$125-\$200
- Window box and containers for planting: \$500-\$600
- Plantings: \$1,200-\$1,500

Total: \$13,325-\$15,300