

The Top 5 Small Landscaping Projects That Can Make a BIG Difference

Local landscaper reveals the small projects increasingly popular in the Greater Prescott Area

As the economy continues to struggle, homeowners are scaling back on big landscaping projects. Increasingly, Prescott-area homeowners are focusing on the small projects with the power to make a big difference in their quality of life.

According to Bruce DeFreitas of Sun Qi Designs, a local landscaper and designer since 2002, these are the top five projects that have proven popular with Prescott homeowners in the past few years.



1. Flagstone Patios

As household budgets tighten, the focus for many people has become less on travel and more on living the good life at home. A beautiful patio functions as a kind of outdoor room, making a cost-effective addition to any Prescott home.

Flagstone patios can be made to suit the dimensions of any outdoor space, and feature options for different hues of stone.

2. Courtyards with Fire Pits or Fireplaces

A focus on quality of life means a focus on friends and family, and Prescott's crisp nights call for backyard get-togethers around a cozy fire pit or fireplace. Typically enclosed by a small flagstone courtyard, fire pits and fireplaces provide a natural focus for outdoor gatherings. They can be either wood or gas burning.



3. Outdoor Kitchens

Nothing makes romantic outdoor dinners or summer parties more convenient than an outdoor kitchen. DeFreitas specializes in completely weather-proofed kitchen "islands" with built-in barbecues, counters and cupboards, all with an emphasis on fine craftsmanship. Counters can feature stonework and/or artistic tile, or can be constructed entirely of wood.



4. Small water features

Many people dream of a backyard waterfall. But many local homeowners have discovered some of the same charms reside in the affordable option of a small water feature. Like waterfalls, small water features can be built into any space. Unlike waterfalls, small water features do not have ponds. They consist of a reservoir covered with stone and rocks which remains maintenance free.



5. Decorative Gates and Fences

When large landscaping projects are not an option, some have found that the simple addition of an artistic gate, fence or a rustic garden sculpture can add significantly to the look and feel of their outdoor environment. A large, automatic gate can mark the entrance to a driveway, while a smaller, simple gate might open into a backyard garden or patio area. DeFreitas specializes in one-of-a-kind wrought iron gates, fences and garden art pieces.

These projects show that, despite the recession, gracious outdoor living is alive and well in Prescott, Arizona.

Sun Qi Designs is a complete landscape and design company specializing in artistic stonework, water features and one-of-a-kind gates and fences. A gallery of project images is available online at www.SunQiDesigns.com.