

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A backyard with an existing in-ground pool, raised lounge deck and outdoor kitchen needed a new landscape layout to connect these amenities to one another while providing a backdrop of plantings to compliment the modern feel of the yard.

Project goals included preserving the lawn in areas of heavier foot traffic and using evergreen and hardy, tropical-looking plant materials to evoke the feel of a backyard oasis.

Challenges included an angular and narrow lot which, in some spots, left little room for plant material. Similar to the effect of horizontal and vertical stripes on clothing, bands of color were created with groundcovers to make the narrow lot appear wider in one direction and longer in the other direction. In doing so, the yard feels more spacious in the tight areas, and in adding more visual depth to the lot, a previously unused area extending behind the raised deck was given a new purpose - to serve as a lush backdrop and to create a sense of enclosure for loungers on the deck with vertical plantings such as the Sweetbay Magnolia and Enkianthus.

Brightly-colored plants, such as Variegated Liriope and Variegated Japanese Aucuba lighten up shady areas and contrast with the dark wood of the fence. A narrow, upright green screen which intersperses flowering vines and Heavenly Bamboo was created to soften the hard edges of the pool fence. New black slate stepping stones were chosen to match the existing concrete pool deck and to provide access to a rear gate.

Throughout the design modern lines, angles and curves are used to form the spaces around the existing amenities. Lawn remains only in two areas which receive foot traffic, reducing awkward mowing areas yet providing some plush surfaces for bare feet. Plantings not only bring color and contrast into the space, but also give form, function and definition to a completed modern backyard.

