



inspired solutions

Challenging spots lead to the most imaginative results

Everyone's familiar with the expression, "The grass is always greener on the other side..." Those confined to tight urban plots wish they had wide-open space; those with sprawling acres have gardens that routinely suffer attacks from pesky nibblers. People in rainy climates dream of sun; drought-depressed gardeners yearn for a few drops. Homeowners come to landscape pros with all these problems—and more. Sometimes, they're even challenged at their own homes, as garden designer Deborah Gliksman was with her 1940s California stucco house, at left, and its former ho-hum concrete deck. Her solution, which you can read about starting on page 108, inspired even more changes, many of which eco-friendly, to boot. So if you're staring down your slope or stuck on a shaded spot and wondering what to do, turn the page and steal an idea or two from the pros who have turned lumpy coals into dazzling diamonds.

Look for



page 104 | Can a cold and wet, then hot and dry climate go tropical? Yes!



page 100 | When the garden went downhill, plants helped lift it back up.



page 112 | Pest control comes from 50% plantings, 50% good attitude.

The red flagstone and stucco façade add color to the otherwise natural palette in the pool, greenery, stone seating and walls.

drought-tolerant dream

Hot but not bothered in this Southwest-flavored new terrace made for entertaining

PROBLEM: Drab concrete terrace

SOLUTIONS: Red flagstone, curvy stone bench and low walls, drought-tolerant plants

KEY PLANTINGS: *Anigozanthus* spp. (Kangaroo Paws); *Euphorbia wolferii* 'Shorty' (Shorty Mediterranean Spurge); *Festuca* spp. (Fescue Grass); *Hemerocallis* spp. (Daylily); *Olea* spp. (Olive);

ZONE: 10

LANDSCAPE DESIGNER: Debbie Glikman, Urban Oasis, Los Angeles, CA, urbanoasis-la.com

Landscape designer Debbie Glikman's own 1940s-era house included a swimming pool, but nothing else met her creative taste level. To start, she laid a new red flagstone terrace that complements her home's stucco façade, setting it in large irregular shapes for a rustic look. To be a good eco-citizen, she used the lifted concrete to build a curving bench and low stone walls. The neutral gray balances the red. Sustainable plant materials include drought-tolerant grasses and colorful Kangaroo paw.



A new round fire pit imitates the curves of the new built-in seating bench; gas makes an instant-on and -off fire.



Another seating area is for dining, nestled into a triangular part of the terrace. Blue cushions repeat the water's pale hue.

pool decking decisions

Take into consideration these elements, says landscape designer Debbie Glikman:

- **HEAT INDEX** Concrete is extremely hot on bare feet; flagstone is much cooler.
- **MAINTENANCE** Gravel as a surround requires replenishing and a lot ends up in the pool or scattered about, which hurts feet.
- **OVERALL LOOK** Do you prefer small, intricate tilework or the effect of large slabs? This designer chose big slabs with loose grouting for rustic charm. The hot red tone is complemented by cool gray stone walls.
- **DRAINAGE** The new decking allows water to percolate back to the water table rather than run off into sewers.

Photos: Deborah Glikman, Urban Oasis