

New in Homes

'Mystery' walkway beckons

Narrow path on side of house proves challenging

Design tricks add interest to neglected area



Elaine Carey
Lessons in Landscaping

The gardens pictured here are all different but they all address a common problem — the awkward little walkway area down the side of a house.

Adam Gracey tried to add interest to these areas that often are left bare and neglected with a couple of design tricks.

Pocket gardens add a new feature to an often boring, overlooked part of a home

The first is "to create a sense of mystery at the start, something that makes the viewer want to peek around the corner and see what is there to see," Gracey said.

long, narrow area by dividing it up into small planting areas, adding interesting pavers or oversize flagstone pieces as steps and walkway.

Then, decorate these areas with pots and urns by a doorway or in front of a wrought-iron gate.

The final step is to create a focal point at the end of the walkway, he said. The sheds at the end of two of the properties are on neighbouring houses and were individually created to serve as storage areas and potting sheds.

Each has features that add interest from the walkway view, the house and the backyard. The sheds also add privacy to the backyard by blocking the view into the actual yard itself.

In other side yards, the focal point is the view it gives of the backyard — a pool, a waterfall, a seating area or even an interesting wrought-iron gate.

And in some cases, even though the property line falls between the two houses, the two homeowners have agreed to let the landscapers design the entire area because it improves the look of both properties and remains accessible to them, he said.

These pocket gardens add a lovely new feature to an often overlooked and boring part of a home.

Source: D. A. Gracey and Associates. 905-761-9490. www.dagracey.com



Backyard focal point includes an interesting wrought-iron gate.



Birdbath and a paver walkway catch the eye in area often left bare.

