

BROCCOLO TREE & LAWN CARE, INC.

DESIGNNY
TAKES AN INSIDER'S LOOK AT



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Typically, experiencing nature and enjoying the outdoors are not usually associated with small urban spaces. Designers at Broccolo Tree & Lawn Care see things differently. Two recent projects demonstrate how they transcended urban challenges to create inviting gardens.



BEAUTY IN A SMALL PACKAGE

Last summer Broccolo received an interesting request. The homeowner wanted fire and water features, art, and sitting areas incorporated into a design utilizing abundant colors and textures. Then came the restrictions; everything had to fit on a grass space of 20 by 30 feet bordered by a garage wall and two chain link fences and minimal sunlight. Wires and a neighbor's tree branches were overhead. Could Broccolo do this on a modest budget?

By adding a window box and vertical, fast-growing vines, the garage wall became an artistic backdrop. Inexpensive bamboo fencing hides the chain



link while tall bunch grasses with soft plumes stage it. Artful pruning enhanced the - head tree branches adding light and accentuating shadows. Natural stone steps flow into a low sitting wall. A sunny planter hosts colorful garden blooms. Broccolo created a custom fire element surrounded by water that slides over the sides. Laurie Broccolo, owner of Broccolo Tree & Lawn Care, remarks on the project's spirit, "The homeowner was open to different and fun ideas. That's what made it work."

AN INVITATION TO DINE

The other urban project focused on re-designing a small patio behind the house to develop its aesthetics and functionality. "The homeowners originally wanted an eating area further away by a tree but food and drinks are easier served at close proximity," explains Broccolo. Like the first project, a garage was adjacent to the patio. The client painted a beautiful, free-flowing abstract on the garage door that contrasted with the crisp, clapboard siding. Kimmie Romeo, Broccolo's landscape design consultant for the project, integrated the artwork. She created a natural stone patio with ornamental grass plantings to enhance the view of the door. The alluring new space beckons to guests. "Eventually they will do the tree. But now their guests have phases of enjoyment," says Broccolo. "It's like eating in the dining area then moving into the living room."

