



This Old Yard

By Billie Griffin & Jon Kulczycki

Last fall, my husband and I found the house of our dreams: a two story Victorian on three city lots in Washington Park. We were so enamored with the house

spring this year, we began to see patches of grass mixed with dirt, a lack of trees and privacy, and flower beds that were better suited for a small cottage. Needless to say, we jumped at the chance when given the opportunity to have

column, we'll be passing on what we learn from them, to you. Fortunately, we have the services of Carl Anderson with the Colorado Nursery Association to guide us in transforming our "zeroscape" into an actual landscape.

We met with Carl for the first time about one month ago. He walked us through the process of revamping our landscape and gave us horticultural lessons along the way. We have a lot of dreams for our yard and it does have potential, but it became quickly apparent that we needed the guidance of a landscape architect to pull it all together.

Carl enlisted the help of Carole Kastler from Camelot Design. Carole came by and, with us, walked over every square inch of our yard. We told her some of our hopes for the landscape, and she told us what was actually possible and gave us suggestions for what would be aesthetically pleasing.

The initial consultation



Photo/Lorie Stover

A view of the front yard shows the deep slope that will be transformed with a curving retainer wall and planting beds.



Photo/Lorie Stover

The back yard is where This Old Yard will be concentrating its efforts with a raised vegetable garden, trees and a privacy fence.

and the size of the yard that we neglected to notice how barren the landscape actually was.

With the early arrival of

"this old yard" made over.

We're certainly not Master Gardeners, so we knew we'd need some professional help. In this

with Carole was \$50.

In addition to adding planting beds, trees and shrubs, there is a steep slope in the front yard that we wanted to eliminate. We wanted an area in the back for dining and entertaining and we wanted a vegetable/herb garden. Carole had excellent ideas for all of these things.

Beginning with the front yard, Carole pointed out that our house has vertical and sharp lines that needed to be softened. Together, we decided the best way to accomplish this and not have to drag the lawn mower up and down the slope, was to put in a curving retainer wall with planting beds

interspersed along the top and bottom, as well as between the rocks. The existing planting beds would then be extended outward and curved to match the line of the wall, creating a "river" of grass in between.

Next, we walked around the house to the back yard where your eye is immediately drawn to a view of the alley and, unfortunately, all of our neighbor's trash. We didn't need a professional to tell us we needed a privacy fence. However, we had always envisioned installing a huge deck, complete with tables, chairs and a hot tub.

See YARD page 12

From old to new, it all begins with the plans

YARD from page 9

Carole was quick to point out that if we extended a deck from the existing doorway, we would still be high enough to see the alley and houses over our privacy fence. With this in mind, we began to consider a patio instead.

The remainder of our back yard includes a vein of dirt from the replacement of a main sewer line, and two sitting areas made out of tree stumps topped with flagstone (think Flintstone furniture,



Photo/Don Kubec

Billie Griffin and Jon Kulczycki bought their dream home in the fall, 1994.

sound, Carole assured us that "this old yard" could be transformed. She had a great idea for an inexpensive raised vegetable garden that utilizes cinder blocks to form the beds which are then mortared

entire yard, Carole was ready to start on our design. She returned to the property one last time to take measurements.

We met with Carole two weeks later to review her design. She explained every detail of the plans and showed us pictures of the individual flowers and trees, explaining why she had chosen them. We were pleased with the sketch design and made very few changes. Carole then finalized the plans and made the blue prints.

Carole's imagination, creativity, and expertise have kept us awake nights, dreaming of rivers of grass, cascades of bright beautiful flowers and a yard we never could have imagined. We eagerly await further collaboration with Carl and Carole and to see the transformation of This Old Yard.

Follow Jon and Billie's progress in This Old Yard in three weeks.



Photo/Don Kubec

The sketch that Carole has drawn up for Billie and Jon shows a detailed plan for the landscape. The couple can tackle their yard one project at a time.

here). At one time there was an elm tree which contracted Dutch elm disease and had to be removed.

As daunting as it may

with paver bricks and topped with wood. This method also retains heat, an important concern in Colorado.

Once we had covered the



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It has been three months since we started re-landscaping "This Old Yard" and there has been an amazing change. Remarkably, our front yard has been transformed into a gardener's paradise. The backyard is now the perfect, private place for outdoor entertaining.

After the patio and fence were finished, it became apparent that we needed some outdoor furniture. We found a good quality, sturdy and affordable patio set at Target. We also found prices on a gas grill and patio accessories.



Photo/Lorie Stover

This Old Yard BEFORE and...

Now we can begin to enjoy our new landscape and focus on the maintenance of it. Carl Anderson has recommended that we spray all our plants and shrubs with Miracle Gro twice a month. We will also keep fertilizing

once a month until August.

In order to maintain the natural color and protect our cedar fence, we will coat it with a wood sealer. Rocky Mountain Fence Co. suggests using a good wood seal to

extend the life of any wood fence.

As "This Old Yard" closes for another season, we would like to express our appreciation to the people behind the scenes. Thank you, Margaret Sharp for making it all possible; Carl Anderson for your guidance and Lorie Stover and Don Kubec for helping us to

with your wonderful photos.

Additionally, we offer a toast and high compliments to the following contractors and businesses with whom we worked: Camelot Designs, V Landscaping, Arapahoe Acres, Nurserymen's Landscape Service, Paulino's Garden Center, LPS Pavement, Hol-Home Exteriors, Organix Supply, Dave Kelly, Don Moll and their employer, Rocky Mountain Fence Co., Renewable Fiber, Inc., H.D.M. Construction

our old yard into a beautiful landscape. We've had a great time working with all of you. Thanks for making our landscape into a perennial enjoyment.

We will continue to phase in aspects of our lawn, beginning with some sod replacement and vegetable garden work. We hope you have increased your landscaping knowledge and resources and have found pleasure in following our progress.



Photo/Lorie Stover

...AFTER. The transformation is complete.

Enterprises, A-1 Organics, Martinez Trucking, McGarva Tree and Landscape Service and Target.

All of these companies

