



Stone selection should refer back to your home's color

double curves

Sweeping curves of brick and planting beds give the illusion of a larger design



problem Rectilinear layout made long, shallow backyard appear smaller than it was



solution Add a gracefully curved brick walkway/patio with strategically placed garden cutouts containing perennials and ornamental grasses

things we love

- 1 Portable fire pit made from a copper bowl is set atop a cast-iron base and can be moved around
- 2 Patio garden beds blooming or providing seasonal interest year-round, including five ornamental grasses: *Panicum virgatum* 'Northwind', *Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Hameln', *Molinia arundinacea* 'Skyracer', *Calamagrostis arundinacea brachytricha* and *Chasmanthium latifolium*
- 3 Lawn area was expanded by removing invasive buckthorn trees
- 4 Brick border is framed by curved beds, and specimen boulders were incorporated into the brick paving and curved planting beds

To make the long, shallow backyard look bigger and more inviting, landscape designer James M. Drzewiecki designed the edge of the paving with sweeping arcs, and then repeated that shape for the plant borders, resulting in a much more rhythmic and expansive look. A bed was also inserted into the terrace to conceal a well cap, which he covered with a faux boulder. He then placed several specimen boulders amid the beds and walks, even building some of the brick paving around

strategically placed stones. The boulders and brick are softened with ornamental grasses, which retain their form all year.

+ KEY PLANTINGS
 Achillea 'Moonshine' (Moonshine Yarrow); Echinacea 'Katie Saul' (Big Sky Coneflower); Solidago rugosa 'Fireworks' (Fireworks Goldenrod) **ZONE: 5**

\$ MONEY-SAVERS Work has been phased in gradually over the last three years, beginning with the construction of the back patio and planting beds, followed by the addition of the S-curved front walkway.





brightidea:
SET beds in patios
to add interest
and direct traffic



Building on BRICK: the 411

CHOOSE WISELY: Durable and classic, brick is a good fit in most any yard. You can find traditional, manmade or reclaimed versions, but note: Not all brick is created equal. It's manufactured differently depending on whether it will be used on a house or as a paving surface—brick for a walk is designed specially to handle the wear and tear of regular foot traffic.

COLOR & TEXTURE: Clay brick, which is made the old-fashioned way, is more limited in its color palette and tends toward shades of red, brown and earth tones. Concrete brick is manmade and comes in a wider variety of hues, from grays to blues and greens. In addition, brick comes in different textures like a rustic tumbled edge or a more contemporary sliced, sharp edge.

SIZE & SHAPE: Brick paving is almost always available in 4" by 8" sizes, although some comes in odd-size shapes—or can be made that way. However, custom designs do require a higher installation cost. Most brick is installed in straight rows, or basketweave or herringbone patterns.

LANDSCAPE DESIGNER: James M. Drzewiecki, Assoc. AIA, Ginkgo Leaf Studio, Milwaukee, WI, ginkgoleafstudio.net, 414-303-4392, **PHOTOGRAPHY:** Jay Westhauser



In and around planned patios and other hardscaping, large boulders and smaller rock beds play up the organic appeal of stone

