



*Sunset*  
**Landscaping  
for Privacy**

Hedges · Fences · Vines · Arbors

**OUTDOOR LIVING SPACES**

Garden “rooms” may be natural extensions of indoor rooms, or they may be independent of the house. This book is all about using walls, fences and gates, hedges, trees, vines, and structures such as pergolas to create privacy in your outdoor living area.

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**BETWEEN YOU AND THE STREET**

Is your front yard seldom used because it's so lacking in privacy? Here are ideas for transforming the “public” area between the house and the street into a secluded bit of garden, a protected patio, or a charming entryway.

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**VERSATILE BACK YARDS**

Low-level decks, outdoor cooking and dining areas, and hot tubs, pools, and spas are back yard areas that require a high degree of protection from the gaze of neighbors and passersby, from street noise, and from the elements.

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**PROBLEM AREAS**

In this chapter you'll find information and ideas about long, narrow side yards, rooftops, and balconies—places that are often underused because they are so small, oddly shaped, and exposed to the view of the world.

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**SHRUBS AND HEDGES**

When it comes to designing for privacy, shrubs are the most versatile group of plants the gardener has to work with. Besides forming a solid barrier or defining a boundary, some shrubs are valued for their handsome foliage, spectacular flowers, or colorful berries.

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**LANDSCAPING WITH TREES**

Large trees can be used to block out an unpleasing view; smaller trees can be used with shrubs to achieve a lush screen. Like shrubs, trees contribute more to your landscape than just privacy—like summer shade, brilliant fall color, or edible fruit.

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**VINES AND CLIMBERS**

The flexibility, huge variety, and fast growth rate of vines and climbers make them an excellent choice for temporary or permanent leafy screens to protect a deck, porch, or arbor, or to mask an unsightly fence or wall.

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**FENCES AND SCREENS**

Among constructed privacy barriers, fences and screens are the easiest to build, the most versatile—and the most popular. Here are descriptions of different fences for different needs, as well as hints on design and construction.

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**MASONRY WALLS**

From a low stone wall to mark your property line, to a full-scale brick wall to enclose a patio dining area, masonry walls can be almost as adaptable as fences in creating privacy in your landscape; and they can be an efficient noise barrier as well.

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**GARDEN STRUCTURES**

Porches, breezeways, pergolas, gazebos, arbors, bowers, loggias—these charming, old-fashioned covered structures can be among your most dependable resources for creating or enhancing an atmosphere of privacy and tranquility in your garden.

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**ENHANCEMENTS**

Enhancements—the little niceties, the personal touches, the fountain, statue, or birdbath—make the garden seem a more intimate place, strengthening the sense of privacy and retreat that you have worked so hard to build.

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