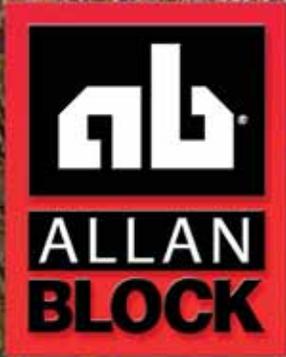


ALLAN BLOCK LANDSCAPES

Newsletter for the Landscape Professionals

Issue 13

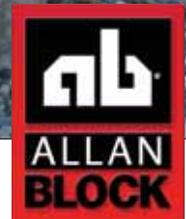


Inside:

- ◆ Elegant Entryways
- ◆ Building with the AB Courtyard Collection
- ◆ Watch for us on HGTV

Create Elegant Entryways with Ease

Courtyard
Collection



With any new home construction, the outside landscaping is typically an after thought once the residents have moved in. Knowing that the front of the home is visually the most impor-



tant area, the homeowners of this project started their search to create something they could be proud of.

After researching many ideas on the internet and at local landscape stores, they went to allanblock.com based on a friends recommendation. They found the perfect solution, the Allan Block Courtyard Collection. Using the website they were able to find a local distributor who gave them a reference to a qualified contractor.

The homeowners explained how they wanted their front entry to look, and that they envisioned something that would complement their modern elegant house with a front yard that attracted attention without taking the focus away from their home.

They started by installing a large concrete circle drive that gave access to both garages and the front entryway. Using the Allan Block Courtyard Collection, they installed a Courtyard wall along the drive and also at the front entryway to create a welcoming path to the front door.

The color of the block blends in nicely with the color and style of the home and the surrounding landscape. With a slight incline to their front yard the Courtyard wall was installed with the wall panels stepping up to match the slope.

By using just the AB York Block for the panels and the corner blocks for the posts, the project went together quickly. They installed accent lighting within each post, so when illuminated at night, the front yard almost glows.

To add contrast and to soften the hardscapes, they planted a variety of trees and shrubs along the drive and placed planters at the front door for a beautiful effect.

With the AB Courtyard Collection, the homeowners accentuated their new landscaping to have the curb appeal that complimented their new home and provided them the outdoor space they are proud to share with family and friends.



Check out these three simple projects using the



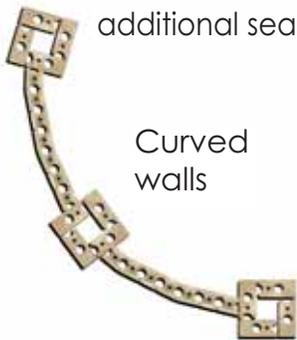
Build a Patio

This homeowner wanted to define his patio area and create an “**outdoor entertaining area**”. In one weekend they were able to design and build exactly what they were looking for with the Courtyard Collection from Allan Block. They incorporated lighting elements on the posts so evening entertaining was possible. With a few simple tools and an understanding how the blocks fit together, they were on their way to having an outdoor space they could use for entertaining.



You can use the AB Courtyard Collection to create a design that compliments your patio using straight or curved walls. The low walls can also work well as additional seating areas.

See How-To sheet #260 for detailed instructions.



Layout first course to match patio design.



Finish by gluing caps in place for seating areas.

Build a BBQ Surround



After updating their backyard with a beautiful stamped concrete patio, the homeowners did not want to just set their BBQ grill in the corner. They wanted to have their grill blend right in. While visiting their local home show the homeowners decided an **outdoor kitchen** would be a great addition to their patio. By using the AB Courtyard Collection from Allan Block, a large slab paver in a matching color, and following a simple layout from allanblock.com for a BBQ grilling station, their outdoor kitchen became a reality.



Courtyard Collection from Allan Block®



These three projects are being featured on HGTV.



Build an In-Ground Pond

Something this homeowner had always wanted in her backyard was a **water feature**. She hoped it would be somewhat maintenance free but also have running water, without an elaborate layout. She looked into building a waterfall with a small stream but determined it was too labor intensive and required more maintenance than she preferred. She stopped at a local landscape store where they had an **Allan Block Courtyard Collection** pond on display with a fountain that seemed to be just what she was looking for. The sales representative answered her questions and let her know that it could be built easily by installing the blocks in a circle to the appropriate size and height and incorporating a liner to keep the water in the pond.

By the end of the weekend she had the water feature she had always dreamed of and the sense of accomplishment of doing it herself.

See How-To sheet #310 for more information.



Layout and mark pond location.



Install and align first course, stack additional courses to desired height.



Layout first course.



Stack additional courses to the desired height.

Building on a pre-existing foundation, like pavers or a concrete slab, makes building with the AB Courtyard Collection that much easier. Just stack the blocks, glue the caps down and you are done. Simple enough to complete in a weekend.

See the How-To sheet #290 for the complete information on building a BBQ Surround.

Visit allanblock.com to watch the video from start to finish on each of these projects to see just how easy it is to do.



Check out Allan Block's Library of Instructional Videos

At allanblock.com you can view videos on the AB Courtyard Collection and AB Landscape Walls that cover the basics of planning, designing and building with Allan Block's great products. Visit today to see any of these topics.

AB Courtyard Walls

- Base Construction
- Building a Wall Panel
- Building a Post/Pillar
- Building Curves
- Building Corners
- Patio Enclosures
- Above Ground Pond
- BBQ Grilling Station
- Entry Monument
- Light Post

AB Landscape Walls

- Site Prep & Excavation
- Installing the Base Course
- Backfilling & Compaction
- Gravity Walls
- Reinforced Walls
- Patterned Walls
- Curves
- Step Ups
- In Wall Planters
- Stairs
- Finishing Options



Photos, Photos, Photos

Also available at allanblock.com are many different project photos for both the AB Courtyard Collection and AB Landscape Walls. The photos are organized by applications in a fun to use scrapbook. Check out all the beautiful projects that will enlighten your imagination with ideas that you can build.



Design a setting unique to your lifestyle

The AB Courtyard Collection is durable and versatile enough to meet any design need. From elaborate designs to simple weekend projects you can create patio enclosures, landscape accents, seating walls, fountains, planters and more. The design possibilities are endless. Combine the AB Courtyard Collection and the AB Landscape Walls to create stunning outdoor spaces. The interlocking blocks easily fit together without mortar or pins. Let your imagination run wild with possibilities as you design your own unique landscape settings.

Check Out The Great Tools Available

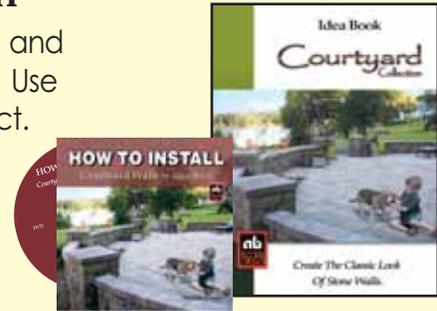


Learn how to install the AB Courtyard Collection™

Using our **How To Install DVD** and **Courtyard Idea Book**, you can design and create beautiful landscapes with the Allan Block Courtyard Collection. Use this versatile, easy-to-install system to enhance the beauty of any project. Check with your local Allan Block Distributor to receive your copy.

Learn How To:

- Build walls, posts or pillars, curves and corners.
- Build a pond, patio enclosure, BBQ grilling station and more.
- Design and build projects you can do in a weekend.



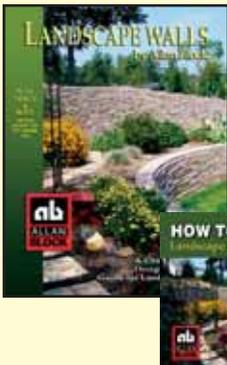
Estimating and Ordering are a Snap!

Estimating materials couldn't be easier. Allan Block offers both an estimating software program (located at allanblock.com) and a laminated calculator wheel for quickly estimating all the materials needed to build a Courtyard Collection project. Visit our website or your local Allan Block Distributor for more information.

Estimating Software



Courtyard Wheel



Don't forget about the Allan Block Landscape Walls

Get all the answers with our new **LANDSCAPE WALLS** guide and **HOW TO INSTALL DVD**. They contain all the information a landscape contractor or a DIY homeowner needs to plan, design and build professional-quality landscape walls up to 6 feet high (1.8 m).

Includes:

- Basic construction techniques for both gravity and reinforced landscape walls. Detailed information on how to build curves, stairs, step-ups and much more.
- Tips for avoiding problems commonly found in residential landscape wall construction.



To receive this *Landscape Lifestyles* newsletter by e-mail, sign up at allanblock.com.

© 2006 Allan Block Corporation 5300 Edina Industrial Blvd., Ste 100, Edina, MN 55439 952-835-5309 - phone 952-835-0013 - fax
US Pat. #4,909,010, #5,484,236, #6,792,731 & #6,322,742 Canadian Pat. #2,012,286 & #2,133,675 Mexico Pat. #189,846 Europe Pat. #649,714 & #99,308,421.9
Australian Pat. #682,394 & #133,306 Germany Pat. # 69,423,563.6 Taiwan Pat. #NI-090824 Japan Pat. #3,142,107 Int'l & other patents pending DOC. #L0312 - 0107