Shine a Little Light on the Subject...

Adding a Dramatic Effect to Your Projects

Lighting brings new possibilities to any landscape. Add a dramatic look with ground mounted lighting or illuminate stairways and pathways with recessed lighting. Allan Block sails with decorative lighting features provide not only a distinctive design, but add safety and security to the landscape.

Allan Block’s patented hollow core design makes it easy to add lighting into any wall. Simply run the wire directly behind the AB blocks (follow local electrical codes) to the light locations. Depending on the light fixture you have chosen, you may need to use a masonry saw to cut out sections of the block to accommodate the lighting fixture and run the wire through the block to the light fixture.

Where Do I Find Outdoor Lighting?

A wide variety of outdoor lighting options can be found on the market today. The layout of your landscape and how it is utilized will determine what lighting options are best for your project. Standard lighting options can be found at your local hardscape dealer, visit our “Where to Buy” dealer locator at allanblock.com for more information.

For lighting that is designed specifically for retaining wall use, check out IC Lights LLC (www.iclights.com). Their low voltage lighting options are designed specifically to be used with Allan Block retaining walls, pillars, courtyard walls, outdoor kitchens and many other landscape applications.

New Project Ideas for AB Courtyard Collection

Have A Great Idea? We Want To Hear About It!

Allan Block’s AB Courtyard Collection is a two-sided wall and post system that can be used in a wide variety of ways. You can build everything from ponds and light boxes to seating walls and outdoor bars, but there is so much more that you can build with AB Courtyard. We here at Allan Block are always looking for new and imaginative ways to build with this versatile product and we want to hear from you!

If you or someone you know has a project idea that you would like us to know about, we would love to hear from you. So think about the projects you have built or want to build and send us your pictures, your ideas and your feedback.

Post your ideas on our blog at allanblockblog.com, find us on Facebook at facebook.com/allanblockwalls or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/allanblockwalls.

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Immediately upon walking through the black cast-iron gate at this magnificent Vienna, VA private residence, a breathtaking landscape quickly comes into view. Initially greeted by large concrete planters filled with colorful plants and lush greenery along the flagstone walkway, guests are quickly introduced to a spectacular outdoor living space.

The homeowners did a lot of research using the internet, talking with contractors, and evaluating many different types of products and construction options. Using what they learned, they developed most of the designs themselves, and knew exactly what they wanted before they even started.

They were extremely pleased and impressed with Allan Block’s website. They loved the photos and it offered much more information than other sites. One photo showed almost the exact look they wanted to achieve. The site also helped them to develop a visual image of what the finished project would look like.

After studying all the options on Allan Block’s site—the products, the photos, how the blocks were pre-engineered, how to install them, etc.—they hired an independent engineer to put it all down on paper.

The entire project was completed in three separate phases. The walkway and window wells were constructed first, followed by the custom-built sculptured pool. The third and final phase included the installation of a master S-curved Allan Block Courtyard seating wall and an All-Diver Retaining wall that surrounds the entire perimeter.

The homeowners added a built-in natural stone that flows from the top of the wall into the pool below, creating a soothing sound to complement the tranquil setting. The steps from the pool lead to a large patio area framed by more curved seating walls, a large outdoor fireplace and fully-equipped kitchen—both constructed using Allan Courtyard.

Shaded beneath a stunning, natural wood pergola supported by white columns, the magnificent outdoor kitchen features both constructed using Allan Courtyard. A good foundation will ensure a stable wall for years to come.

The soil beneath the foundation pad must be a good quality compatible material. If soft soils are encountered, they will need to be removed and replaced with additional crushed rock. A good foundation will ensure a stable wall for years to come.

To ensure stability, if building your wall panel with posts/pillars, see our library of How-to sheets and other instructional materials at allanblock.com.

The AB Courtyard Collection™ is a versatile two-sided wall system that can enhance the beauty of your landscape and backyard. Build AB Courtyard wall panels to create beautiful patios on terraces or flowing curves to give your new outdoor room a graceful and spacious feel. Using these steps you can build a seating wall or patio enclosure.

Installation on an Existing Patio or Pavement

Step 1: Layout

Determine the location of the wall panel to ensure that the placement of the wall is straight, and the location deemed, see a string line. Go to Step 2.

Installation on Soil

Step 1: Layout

Determine the location of the wall panel and lay the first course of block to determine the shape of the wall and adjust where the corner blocks will be placed.

Step 2: Build Foundation*

Mark the location of the wall with a shovel, remove the blocks and dig a level trench 3 in. deep and 7 in. wide (75 mm x 180 mm). Place 3 in. (75 mm) of crushed rock in the trench and compact using a hand tamper.

NOTE:
The AB Courtyard Foundation pad must be a good quality compatible material. If soft soils are encountered, they will need to be removed and replaced with additional crushed rock. A good foundation will ensure a stable wall for years to come.

Step 3: Build

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AB Courtyard Collection™:

Building A Wall Panel

Step 1: Level

Level the base rock. We recommend using a straight 2 x 4 and a level to ensure the base is level. Make any adjustments as needed by adding or removing the crushed rock.

Step 2: Build

Install the first two courses of block at the same time, tamping and leveling into place. Place 3 in. blocks in the trench, level, then place 3 -5 blocks on the second course. Beginning the first two courses at the same time will ensure that the blocks line up properly. The unused rings on the top of the blocks lock the courses together by fitting into the blocks above.

Step 3: Continue Building

Continue stacking courses of blocks in the pattern you have chosen until the desired height is achieved. Remember to offset the block faces on each course of blocks from the course below.

Step 4: Finale

Finish the wall with Wall Caps. On straight sections alternate the direction of the Wall Cap, on curved walls, plane the side of the cap on the inside of the curve, use the Wall Caps in place with a head of masonry adhesive along both sides of the tanted rings and along the side of each Wall Cap (aluminum optional).
Immediately upon walking through the black cast-iron gate at this magnificent Vienna, VA private residence, a breathtaking landscape quickly came into view. Initially greeted by large concrete pillars flanked with colorful plants and lush greenery along the flagstone sidewalk, guests are quickly introduced to a spectacular outdoor living space.

The homeowners did a lot of research using the internet, talking with contractors, and evaluating many different types of products and construction options. Using what they learned, they developed most of the design themselves, they learned, they developed and knew exactly what they wanted to achieve. The site also helped them to develop a visual image of what the finished project would look like.

The entire project was completed in three separate phases. The walkway and window wells were constructed first, followed by the custom-built sculptured pool. The third and final phase included the installation of a majestic S-shaped Allan Block Courtyard seating wall and an All-Diver retaining wall that surrounds the entire perimeter.

The homeowners added a back-in natural that flows from the top of the wall into the pool below, creating a soothing sound to complement the tranquil setting. The steps from the pool lead to a large patio area flanked by curved seating walls, a large outdoor fireplace and fully-equipped kitchen – both constructed using All-Courtyard.

Paradise Found
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Installation on an Existing Patio or Pavement

1. Plan
   - Determine the location of the wall panel.

2. Prepare Foundation
   - Lay the first course of block to determine the position of the wall panel.

3. Fill
   - Place the first course of block at the same time. Installing the first two courses at the same time will ensure that the entire base is level. Make any adjustments as needed by adding or removing the crushed rock.

4. Level
   - Install the first two courses of blocks at the same time, tapping and leveling into place. Place 3-5 blocks in the trench, level, then place 3-5 blocks on the second course, leveling each course as you go. After installing the first two courses, continue with the rest of the courses, adding or removing the blocks until the correct level is achieved. Remember to offset the block seam on each course of blocks from the course below.

5. Finish
   - Finish the wall with WAll Caps. Continue stacking courses of blocks in the pattern you have chosen until the desired height is achieved. Remember to offset the block seam on each course of blocks from the course below.

Additional Information

If taller walls are desired, see How-to sheet #150 for additional construction information to ensure stability. If building your wall panel with pedestrian paths, the added stability or to interlock them together, see our library of How-to sheets and other instructional materials at allanblock.com.

Building A Wall Panel

1. Layout
   - Determine the location of the wall panel, keeping in mind that the AB Courtyard Collection is not designed to retain soils. If your project needs a retaining wall, see our AB Landscape Walls Guide (available at allanblock.com) for more information.

2. Build Foundation
   - Mark the location of the wall panel, lay the first course of block to determine the shape of the wall and to establish where to dig the trench. AB Dublin, AB York or AB Oxford blocks can be used for the base course.

3. Fill
   - Place 3-5 blocks in the trench, level, then place 3-5 blocks on the second course. Installing the first two courses at the same time will ensure that the entire base is level. Make any adjustments as needed by adding or removing the crushed rock.

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Installation on Soil

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New Project Ideas for AB Courtyard Collection

Have A Great Idea? We Want To Hear About It!

Allan Block’s AB Courtyard Collection is a two-sided wall and post system that can be used in a wide variety of ways. You can build everything from ponds and patios to seating walls and outdoor bars, but there is so much more that you can build with AB Courtyard. We here at Allan Block are always looking for new and imaginative ways to build with this versatile product and we want to hear from you!

If you or someone you know has a project idea that you would like us to know about, we would love to hear from you. So think about the projects you have built or want to build and send us your pictures, your ideas and your feedback.

Post your ideas on our blog at allanblockblog.com, find us on Facebook at facebook.com/allanblockwalls or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/allanblockwalls.

We can’t wait to see the great ideas – So Be Creative with AB Courtyard!

Shine a Little Light on the Subject...

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