

Case Study: Garden 1

This garden was a relatively large project and took 11 months to complete. The garden surrounds a newly constructed house on 3 sides and was on a steep valley side. The brief was to construct a watercourse that started in the top corner of the front garden, split into two, and meandered the full width of the front garden before re-joining and dropping over a large waterfall to the lower level. Very low maintenance was one of the main criteria.

In all there are ten waterfalls in the garden, the largest being over 8 feet or 2.4m. The total length is approaching 100m of moving water. We used over 200 tonnes of rock with almost every piece positioned individually. The ground was virtually solid chalk with very little soil to speak of so there was a bit of digging involved, you could say.



This shows the lower end of the watercourse and is the bottom third of the lower pool. These shots are taken in winter so the planting is looking subdued.

The bridge is the largest we have done. It weight about 4 tonnes and we used a crane to lower it into position. It is about 12 feet long, 2 feet wide at the widest point and varies in thickness. The bridge was afterthought and the client asked me to try and 'find a bit of stone to fit'.

I spent a day rummaging in a quarry to find the piece of stone and we were a bit apprehensive when it arrived, hoping we had got our dimensions and levels right. As you can see the finished results works and the client was very happy. The bridge is illuminated from under the water at night and look really something at night.

This bridge is probably my favourite. I had a picked this piece of stone out at the quarry purely because I knew it would make a nice bridge but at the time didn't have a job for it so I planned to use it at home for myself at some point. The surface is really unique, it has ripples like a sandy beach when the tide has just gone out.

I could see the potential of this stone in this stream so I mentioned the idea of a bridge to the client and he was really keen to try it so we went ahead. The stone weighed about 2 tonnes and positioning it was a challenge but the finished result was worth it.

The bridge is underlit with submersible lights and a twenty year old red acer overhangs it. The effect at night is pretty fantastic.

I will have to find another piece for my own bridge!





This shows the pathway from the gate to the front door. The client really liked tropical plants and we used a variety of hardy species to achieve the effect. The other important consideration was low maintenance.

We experimented with several different lighting effects both to maximise the effect of the planting and to make a safe entrance to the garden.

Close up shot of a series of 2 waterfalls in the front garden. This picture was taken in the summer.



This shot shows the front garden taken from the top waterfall in late summer the first year. Some of the alpine plants and prostrate conifers are becoming established and are already softening the landscape. From this angle you can just see a couple of submersible lights which really bring the garden to life at night.

A small section of the upper watercourse in winter. The gravel around the outsides of the watercourse is laid on a weed suppressing membrane for a low maintenance garden. Initially a lot of the gravel is visible but gradually the planting matures and the gravel is covered making it a much less obvious part of the picture.

