

# Newsletter

## SUN FLOWER

### SECRET OF SUCCESSFUL HARDSCAPE



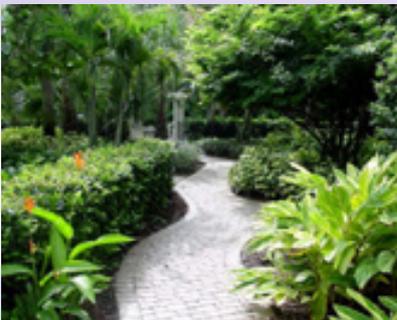
A great hardscaping project leads you through the landscape and provides a sense of timeless beauty.

Hardscaping is an attractive feature and offers many appealing options, from a rustic stacked wall to a fully developed outdoor living room and kitchen. Once you've decided to create an outdoor space, you must plan carefully to meet your hardscaping goals.

#### Consider the Landscaping

A great hardscaping project leads you through the landscape and provides a sense of timeless beauty.

At the bare minimum you should plan a design for the whole area, or consult a professional to create a design for you, if you don't consider the site comprehensively, it's like building one room of a house, and then a year or so later, a second room. You may decide to plop down a patio, and then decide you want a barbecue, pond or walkway and the patio blocks your plan.



## Draining Issues

Hardscapes messed up by people ignoring drainage requirements than by all the other errors combined. You must plan how the drainage will be affected when you place a wall or a patio. You should plan runoff so you can capture the water and use it on site, instead of letting it hit that concrete and go down the drainage pipe.

## Develop a Focal Point

You want the eye to travel toward a destination, and one or two visual elements that make you pause, either visually or literally, like a weeping evergreen with an Oriental lantern



## Choose Balanced Elements

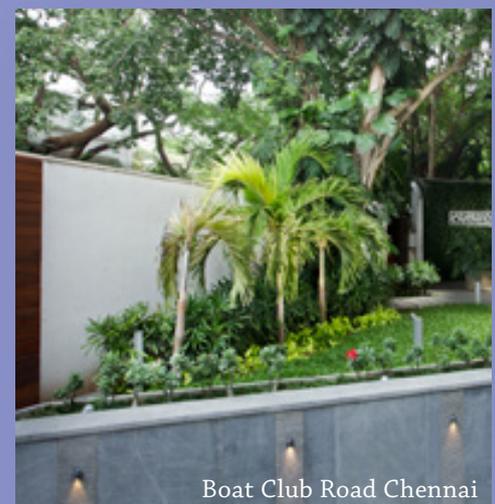
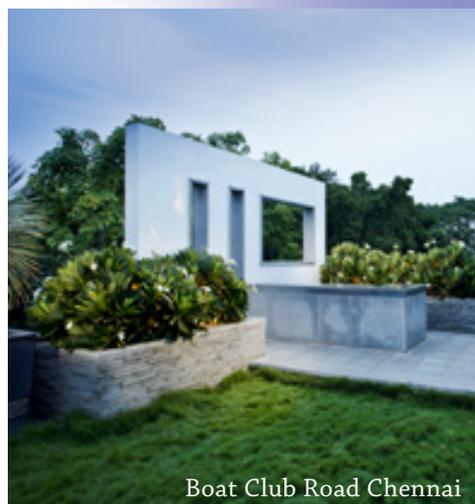
Boulders that are supposed to be helping to naturalize an area, but instead have been dropped right on top of the ground and are sitting there like dinosaur eggs. To successfully use boulders in hardscape, you need to make sure they're large enough to fit with the scale of the landscape, and bury them deep enough so they look like a naturally-occurring element



Too-linear elements can create the same unnatural feel. Too many people plop in a straight or L-shaped side walk, or stick a linear or rectangular patio or deck on the back of the house without giving further thought to the natural lines of the space. You should try to include curves and shapes in a way that the hardscape elements transition gracefully into the rest of the landscape.

## Keep the Greenery

Creative Landscaping with Plants and Stone takes the idea even further. You can have a beautiful backyard comprised of a hardscape framed by shrub and flowerbeds, but keeping a small swath of lawn is a good idea. Grass is a safer playing surface for children, and a patch of turf will help cool down the landscape on hot.



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