BY DEBBY LARSEN / PHOTOGRAPHY BY THOMAS VENEKLASEN

Boxhill Landscape Design
Elizabeth Przygoda

Landscape designer Elizabeth Przygoda of Boxhill Landscape Design has six years of experience in landscape design, architecture and interior design. After working for companies such as Living Desert Designs, Santa Rita Landscaping and Studio Encanto, she has rafts of knowledge about how to make your outside spaces as inviting as the indoors.

Q: How do I create a lush desert look?
A: Nothing says lush like layers. Use large trees to create a canopy for shade. Next, add medium trees for bushes. Finally, put in small ground cover. The wall of plants will soak up the heat so your house, and you, do not. Mix up colors and various shades of green. Combine evergreen bloomers with agaves and fleshy succulents.

Add larger-leafed plants to this shaded microclimate. Dramatic varieties such as tropical bird of paradise (*Strelitzia regina* and *nicolai*) can serve as focal points. Flora such as plumbago, hibiscus and bougainvillea can supply color accents.

Q: What is meant by "hardscape"?
A: Hardscape involves the major elements of design that include the ground surfaces, walls, water features, accessories, and even furniture. Many materials such as rock, gravel, pavers, concrete, brick and flagstone can be used for ground cover. Concrete can be colored or imprinted with designs. Combining a variety of elements helps to achieve different patterns and textures. hg

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ABOVE LEFT Elizabeth Przygoda in a courtyard garden she designed.
ABOVE RIGHT Furniture and fabric selections give style and comfort to a garden.

A variety of colors and textures will enhance the overall effect.