

Bougainvillea at its best / E3 Urban Remedy / E2



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66Plants are like architectural structures. That's how I approach them structure and colour. So when you're sitting and having your coffee, they are a focal point. 99

Julia Todorova



GARDEN MAKEOVER

## Like magi

Using architectural tricks to make a pool fence fit in

MARTA GOLD urnal Feature Writer EDMONTON

heri and Fred Richardson's four-acre spread on the city's western edge is lush, green and lovely. Mature trees and shrubs are planted in pockets around the property. But in the middle of it all, a rectangle of fence surrounding a swimming pool sticks out like a sore thumb.

That was landscape architect Julia Todorova's biggest challenge in providing the Richardson's garden mini-makeover.

"It was driving me crazy, this fence, and how to make it look like it belongs," says Todorova, who owns Julia's Alpine Garden and also designs for Earthworm Landheri and Fred Richardson's

scape Design.

She thought the Richardson's property was otherwise beautiful. The confounding gate that enclosed the pool was a bylaw requirement, and they had done the best they could by erecting an attractive, black, iron fence. Nevertheless, it was too much of a focal point in what was otherwise a park-like setting, says Todorova.

To mitigate the problem, she used an architectural trick. "First you camouflage and then you move the focal point to something different," she says. That new point of interest will be a clematis-covered pergola and a bench by the small pool house at one end of the pool.

She extended the flower beds outside the gated area right through the bars and up to the concrete sur-

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rounding the pool, adding plants that will obscure parts of the black iron.

"Plants are like architectural structures," adds Todorova. That's how I approach them — structure and colour. So when you're sitting and having your coffee, they are a focal point."

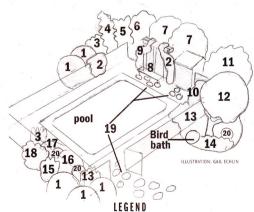
Designing an acreage is different than landscaping a yard, she says.
"You have to design it long-term, thinking like it's a park. You have different areas, and you have to plant a lot of trees and bushes, and tie it all together."

Including lots of native plants at the outset is a good idea because they'll grow well and look natural. Then more exotic or experimental things can be added.

See RICHARDSON / E2



The Richardsons' garden prior to a makeover



- Jackmanii clematis Feather reed grass Diabolo ninebark Northern gold forsyth Double flowering plur French lilac white White pergola and be

## Use existing plants as a starting point

## RICHARDSON

In the Richardson's case, Todorova In the Richardson's case, Iodorova says Sheri had already done a good job of landscaping the acreage but just needed some help filling in a few spots, particularly in the problem area around the pool.

"We have such a big area and that's really hard when you have a lot of space, to try and bring it in a little bit," Richardson says.

son says.

The advice she received from Todorova was "fabulous," she adds. The landscaper took care to use flowers and

shrubs Richardson particularly liked and incorporated many of the existing plants in her plan. She also took into account subtler details, like the mix of colours, sizes and shapes offlowers and shrubs. She even considered the smell of particular plants around the pool area, adding sweet-smelling mock orange and roses.

Todorova left her with a long shopping list of annuals, perennials and shrubs to take to the garden centre.

"My husband will be so excited," Richardson said, jokingly. "He's got a lot of rototilling to do."

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