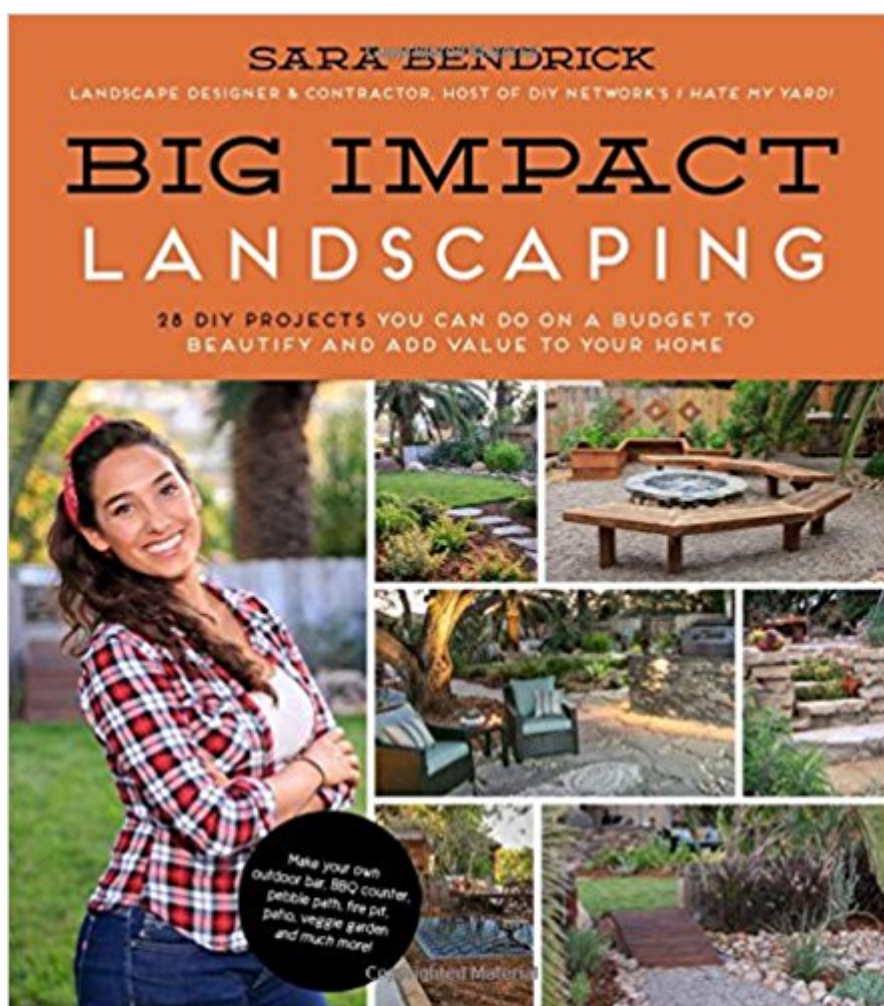


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# Big Impact Landscaping: 28 DIY Projects You Can Do On A Budget To Beautify And Add Value To Your Home



## Synopsis

The Ultimate in Designer Landscaping Projects for Boosting Your Home's Value If you've ever looked at the weed-filled expanse that passes for your backyard and wondered why your family never uses it, then this book is for you. Sara Bendrick, host of *I Hate My Yard!* and *Build It Like Bendrick*, addresses the most common homeowner requests for affordable ways to bring privacy, shade, dining areas, fire features and manageable plantings into their yards to increase their enjoyment of outdoor spaces and increase the value of their home. With 28 unique projects featuring step-by-step instructions and photos, Sara shows you how to:

- Build an outdoor kitchen area for a grill or pizza oven
- Assemble a fireplace out of prefab concrete modules
- Install a stone patio with a pebble mosaic focal point
- Build an overhead structure to provide shade and the feeling of an outdoor room
- Make a privacy screening wall that lets in light and provides a beautiful backdrop
- Create a maintenance-free dry creek bed with a footbridge that will wow your neighbors
- Construct a retaining wall from practically free recycled materials
- Add a bocce court that will return fun and games to your backyard

Get the most out of your property and expand your living space while enjoying more time outdoors. With *Big Impact Landscaping* as your guide, your backyard will go from a forlorn, forgotten wasteland to the go-to gathering place your family and guests will never want to leave.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“For those who really want to add some serious value to your landscape and have fun doing it yourself, look no further! This book sums it all up: great projects, great explanations and great

photos.â •â •Jason Cameron, Licensed Contractor/Landscaper and Host of DIY Networkâ ™s Man Caves and Desperate Landscapesâ œAs a designer and contractor myself, I know firsthand that wearing both hats is a unique experience. We draw and then we make. Sara Bendrick wears all the hats. Itâ ™s clear to anyone who has watched her show or heard her speak . . . Sara lives this stuff!â •â •Matt J. Muenster, Designer/Contractor and HGTV/DIY Network Hostâ œSara Bendrick masterfully breaks down the process of creating your dream yard into manageable steps, from choosing materials and breaking ground to putting in the last stone. Your yard will thank you for picking up this book!â •â •Brittany Bailey, Licensed Contractor and DIY Instructor, PrettyHandyGirl.comâ œSara Bendrick is the full package. Whether itâ ™s her tasteful designs or her infectious joy for landscaping, this talented woman puts her heart and soul into everything she does.â •â •Josh Temple, TV Host and Licensed Contractor

Sara Bendrick is a licensed landscape designer/contractor and host of the DIY Networkâ ™s I Hate My Yard! She has her own design and construction business, Sarita Landscape Design, based in San Diego, California. Sara has been featured in numerous magazines and media outlets and is a frequent guest speaker on home improvement shows, where she dishes out advice to DIYers and landscape enthusiasts alike. She is the cohost of an empowerment chat, #DIYCourage, with Brittany Bailey (aka @prettyhandygirl) to encourage and educate beginning DIYers. Sara is currently filming a new pilot for the DIY Network.

This book is a great reference (you can jump around without having to read from front to back) for anyone looking for yard improvement ideas. This book covers a wide range of landscape projects the average to construction savvy homeowner can complete themselves. The book is image rich and is broken down by project type with suggestions for materials, construction methods, and cost range. Having watched all of Sara's 'I Hate my Yard' episodes in DIY network I knew this book wouldn't disappoint.

This book is just full of ideas for your yard! I have been a fan of this author since she hosted "I Hate My Back Yard" on television. Her creativity is amazing, and I love that her ideas have that personal touch- imagine thinking to convert your childhood playset into a gorgeous potting bench!!The ideas presented in this book are very attractive and functional with a "custom" feel. I love her spirit and personality! Congratulations to a talented lady- this book is fabulous!

We just built a new home in Sep. 2016 and we are loving Sara's book! Lots of neat and easy ideas for our yard! Very practical and easy things to do whether you have a large yard or a small one like us. Planning to enjoy our back yard a bunch this summer! Thanks Sara!

Great ideas and very creative.

I'm not handy. I've never been shown how to do things before, so I'm completely ignorant when viewing this book.+ Not just "quick" projects but some very significant efforts that would take a person or a couple possibly weeks to do with a few hours a night effort. Thus, the book has stuff for the advance person as well, more so than us newbies.+ Tools list needed to complete a job+ Materials list needed to complete a job+ Steps to perform each job, focusing on the key items-- For a newbie, I'll definitely have to watch supplemental Youtube videos or some website's videos in order know/learn how to do some of the steps.Example: Any masonry work and I'll need a supplemental instruction on how to do masonry. This book doesn't exactly explain the feel or tips/tricks needed for something like that, though it makes an attempt to explain the concepts at a high level.-- Unless I missed it, one of the instructions says, "Use a router and a bit to create a 4-foot-long 1/2-inch dado groove."What is a dado groove? Not listed in the index.How in the world am I supposed to create such a groove with a router?This is an example of all the items I need to look up separately and figure out what the tools are (what is a hand tamper?) or materials needed (bag of thinset?) or what to do with the stuff (create a dado groove?).OVERALL:Thus if/when a person could learn about all the details, then I can see this book being a helpful guide. The pictures help in providing ideas and thus scaling a project from the book down to something more affordable or scaling up for someone who wants to go bigger. There is a lot of merit in this book, but I personally need to recruit some friends who know how to read the information provided.

If you're a DIY'er and you have some dream lists for your woeful yards (like I do), you're going to love this book. Sara Bendrick has very thoughtfully put together a book offering 13 well-organized chapters that lays out cost, time, skill level, tools needed, extra services (if) needed, and clear step-by-step directions. She also covers the pros and cons of your lumber, soils, mulches, and other "ingredients" that are utilized.She's a woman. I'm a woman and part of what uplifts me about her book is that I feel a confidence that I don't have to wait for, or hire a man to begin. (While I certainly will appreciate having skilled muscle assisting, I am excited that there's a lot I CAN do to get started). On the flip side, I also clearly see all that goes into certain projects that I wouldn't take on

and I appreciate knowing the behind-the-scenes of seeing a picture in a magazine (fireplace, outdoor kitchen, etc.) There's a wealth of practical (really practical) information and creativity that doesn't overwhelm. These days, I prefer not to buy and hold books on shelves, but I am very happy to have this one as our "new" property desperately NEEDS guidance and reality-checks. For \$14.56 (current price), this book will be referred to constantly (for us). The clearly designed chapters and instructions, with visuals and important details is a pleasure to ponder how I/we could do this or that to solve some challenge that we've balked on (i.e., a practical and attractive privacy screen + more) There's more! Mulch or ground covers...and the pros/cons of those... about soil and plants (great chapter: Planting With A Purpose). Don't want to overwhelm the reader of this review (laugh)... Bottom Line: I'm encouraged vs paralyzed or accepting some boring/unimaginative alternative. Awesome!!

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