

Better Homes and Gardens

The Easy Way
To Walk Off
Weight P.192

JULY 2010 BHG.COM

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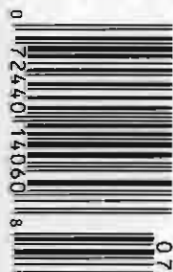
33 Ways to Get
a Great Deal

Amazing
\$350 Room
Makeover

Plus: 20
Super-Fast
Summer
Meals

Foolproof
Garden Color
In Sun or
Shade

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Napkin Table
Runner P.28

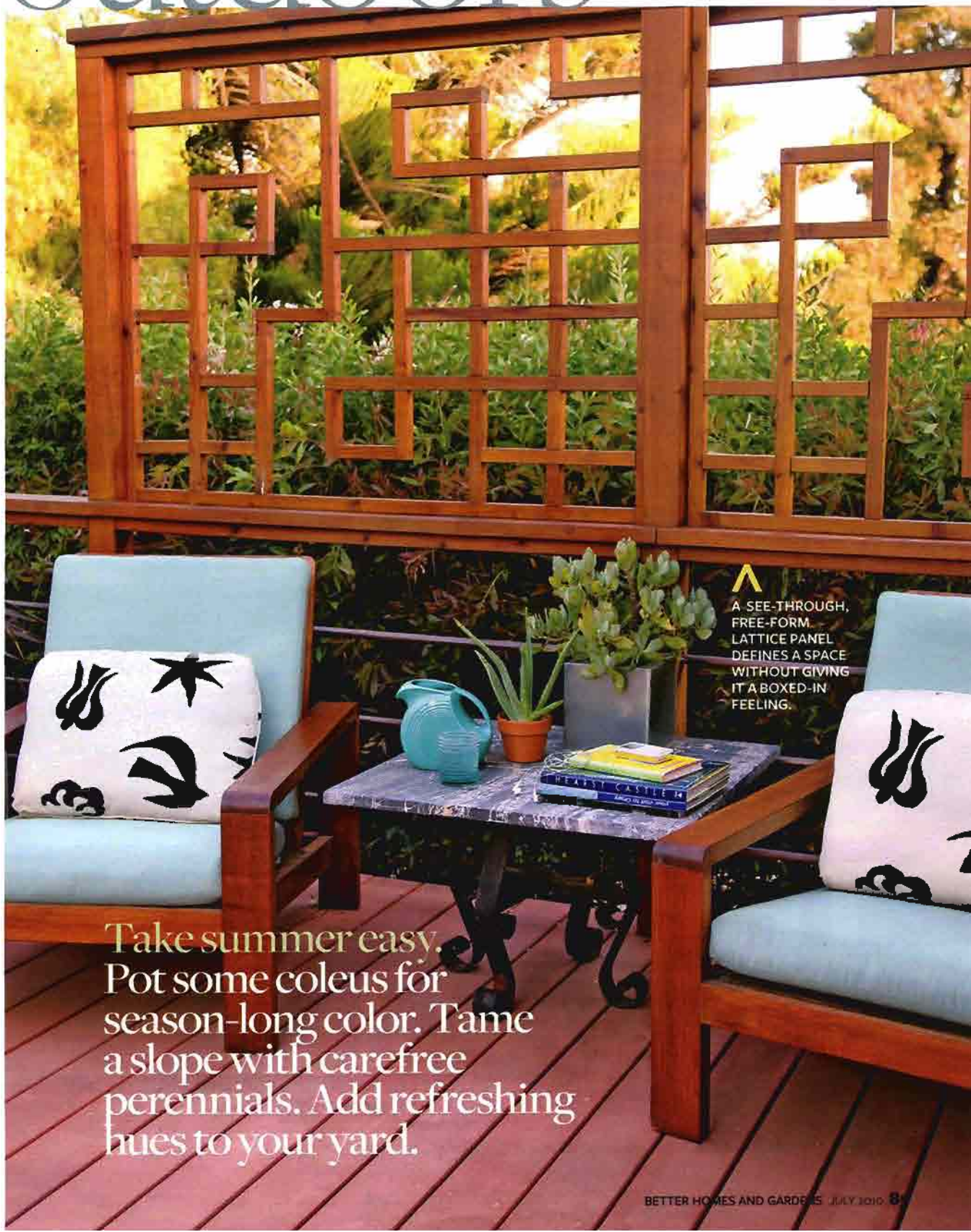


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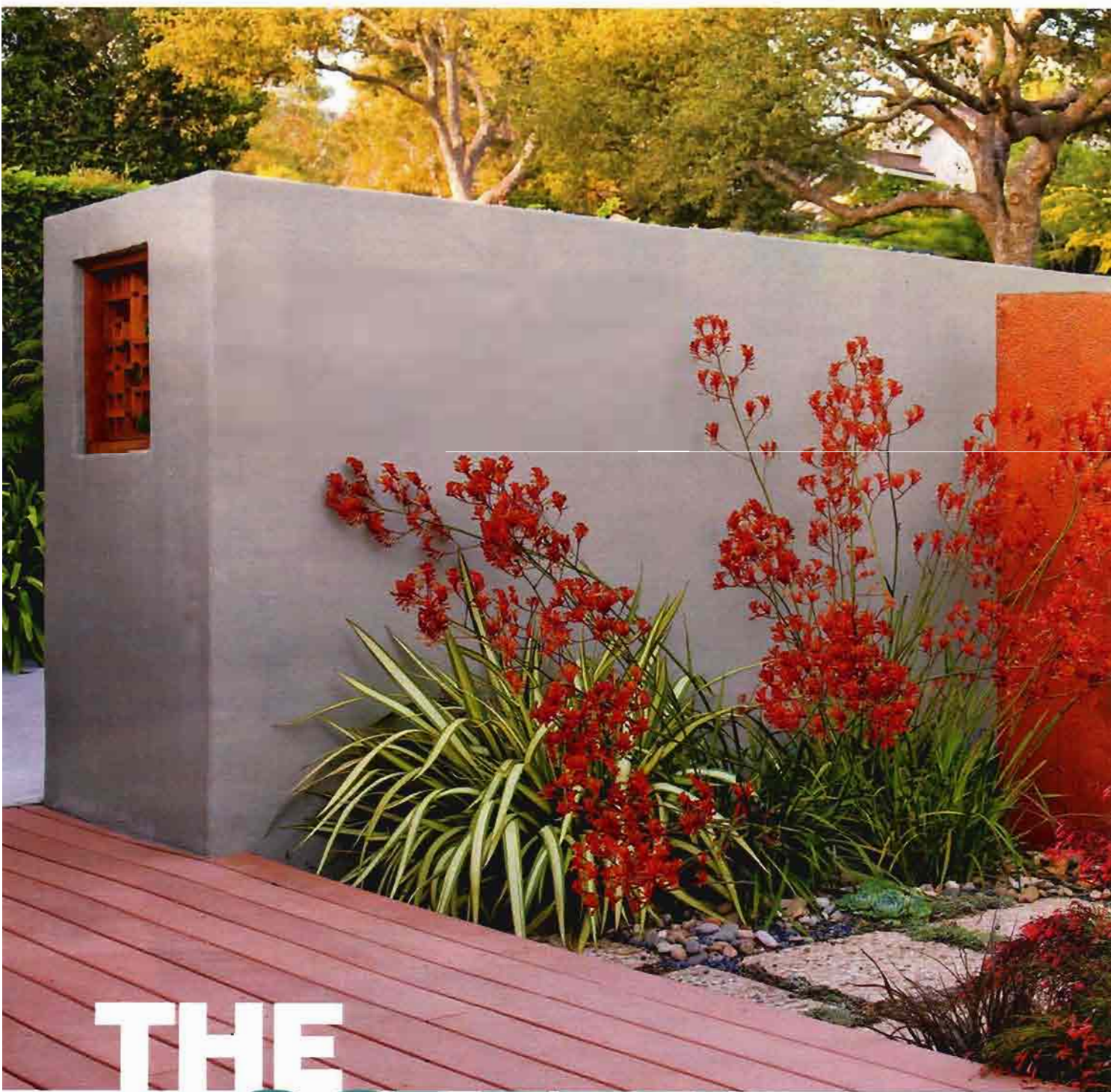
outdoors

IN THE GARDEN



▲
A SEE-THROUGH,
FREE-FORM
LATTICE PANEL
DEFINES A SPACE
WITHOUT GIVING
IT A BOXED-IN
FEELING.

Take summer easy.
Pot some coleus for
season-long color. Tame
a slope with carefree
perennials. Add refreshing
hues to your yard.



THE SCREEN PLAY

A TOO-PUBLIC FRONT YARD GETS
A CONTEMPORARY OVERHAUL THAT
TAKES IT UNDERCOVER.

by KAREN WEIR-JIMERSON photos ED GOHLICH producer ANDREA CAUGHEY



OPTICAL ILLUSION A gray stucco wall creates separation from the driveway. A lattice “window”—mirrored by matching lattice on the deck, gives it a modern look. Kangaroo paw plants erupt in orange against the soft gray.



Sloping. Exposed. Colorless. That summed up the dreary front yard of this Santa Barbara home where the odds of spotting a Thunderbird topped any chance of seeing a chickadee—until landscape designer Margie Grace stepped in. “The homeowner wanted privacy, more living space, easy care—and something that was kind of edgy,” Grace says.

Step One in claiming the space as a relaxation zone: Outsmart a nasty slope. “The front yard was so steep you felt like you could tumble from the street to the house,” says Grace. She conquered the incline with nary a piece of heavy equipment. “We just covered it up with a deck.” A low, hidden retaining wall supports the pretty platform from below.

And pretty is the key word. This had to be more than just a place to sit outside. “The homeowner has great style,” Grace says, “and her color is orange.” So orange it was: The deck was built of recycled composite material. In orange. She planted kangaroo paw plants. In orange. And to pump up the privacy, cedar and redwood lattice and a freestanding modern iron sculpture were added. In orange.

Privacy gets another boost from a fringing green hedge of 6-foot-tall yew pine (*Podocarpus macrophylla*) screening the view from the busy street. At the same time, a block wall clad in gray stucco separates the deck and driveway. A lattice window accents the wall and provides a visual cue to the front door.

Color added. Slope solved. Privacy gained. Check, check, check, and done!

“They wanted low-muss, low-fuss, so once the garden grew in they wouldn’t have to do much with it—just deadhead and whack things back.” MARGIE GRACE, LANDSCAPE DESIGNER





Color blaze Neon-orange kangaroo paw (*Anigozanthos*) and stripy New Zealand flax (lower left corner) fire up the landscape, *above*. Kangaroo paw is a tropical perennial, but cold-weather gardeners can grow this bright beauty from Down Under as an annual. To cool off the molten palette, landscape designer Margie Grace added icy succulents, *opposite page*. Blue fingers (*Senecio mandraliscae*) bubbles up between *Aeonium* rosettes and spills out of a metal container. The dusty blue color matches a groundcover (*Dymondia margaretae*) that acts as living “grout” between pavers.



Garden style on a budget Margie Grace is a pro at creating stylish landscape elements with inexpensive materials.

BASIC BENCH Salvaged brick-wall caps topped with an irregular-shape slab of stone from a local stone retailer cost about \$35.

PENNY-PINCHING PAVING These 2x2-foot pavers cost about \$20 each at a home improvement store. The result is cheaper than a poured concrete patio. Plus, you can grow groundcover between the pavers, and reuse them elsewhere in the future.

