

Client Name: Conrad PR
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Landscape to scale

Small spaces can benefit hugely from design work. This back yard won an award for its sleek, Zen style.

By **NICOLE GREGORY**
ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

The word “landscaping” might conjure up images of rolling acres of property planned with massive trees and shrubs. But even small spaces can be designed and landscaped to create a specific mood or theme that reflects the character of its owners.

That was exactly the challenge for Ross C. Shaw, president of RC Landscape Construction Inc. in San Clemente, when he was approached by the owners of a patio home in Newport Beach who wanted their courtyard to be a Zen-like spot of quiet beauty. The result was an open, comfortable space, with succulents and an angular water feature engineered so the water seems to trickle down the side and disappear.

The project, which was completed last spring, won



This water feature was chosen by the owners for its style - and its low maintenance requirements.

the first place award in the “design and build” category at the recent California Landscape Contractors Association’s Annual Beautification Awards held in

Orange County.

“The owners had recently remodeled their house to be more contemporary, and were looking for someone to redo the entry courtyard,”

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This courtyard space was divided into square and circular sections with smooth pebbles in between for a contemporary feel.

explained Shaw, who established his company in 1980. "They wanted a contemporary feel, a meditation garden where you could sit and feel at peace."

Shaw chose succulents because of their low-water needs and simplicity. At the suggestion of the owner, he

created a vertical succulent planter that sits on one wall.

For the ground space, Shaw said "we divided it into squares and circles and added dark smooth pebbles" so that it would be comfortable to walk on as well as beautiful. The fountain was chosen by the owner because it's

not too noisy, is easy to maintain and provides some interesting motion.

RC Landscapes designs and installs residential landscapes throughout Orange County, including pools, spas, irrigation systems, decks, fire features and lighting.