

# sundrea

VOX

Mar 2016

You may have noticed we've made some changes recently and have gotten out of the nursery business. Sundrea closed it's doors to the Landscape Center and is now just focusing on Landscape Installation and Maintenance, which we have been doing for years.

Paul has been a leader in Residential Landscaping in Tucson for 25 years and in 2013 was named International Landscape Designer of the Year by the Association of Professional Landscape Designers. That same year he opened a Landscape Center to compliment his already successful Design/Build company, which proved only to take a lot of time and energy away from his design work.

With help from his fellow Landscape Designers and amazing Construction Team, Sundrea Design/Build has continued to thrive over the past two years, creating some of the finest Landscapes in Tucson. The fireplace seen here was designed by Paul and installed by his Construction Team. The firebowl and two water features were designed in collaboration with Paul's good friend and Award-Winning Landscape Designer, Kathryn Prideaux, APLD. Paul's Design/Build Team helped with the construction details. Local artist, Lee Blackwell, fabricated the copper pieces for both water features.

Sundrea Design/Build continues to be a leader in Residential Landscaping in Tucson. Stay tuned for next month's issue of VOX to see more cool projects we've been working on ...



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VOX

Apr 2016

Spring is here and the Sonoran Desert is bursting with life and color. It's a great time to enjoy the outdoors, including spending time in your garden.

Whether you enjoy sitting and relaxing in your own private patio space, entertaining guests, or playing with plants and pots in your garden, Sundrea can create a space just for you. Our skilled team can custom design and build just about anything from simple to complex, small scale or large scale. We specialize in creative problem solving to achieve a balance of beauty and function, always with a focus on quality. We can work with just about any material from masonry to metal to natural elements.

We recently completed this outdoor patio space which included two unique features. The first is a potting table comprised of new and repurposed metal. Paul and the homeowner came up with the basic concept and sketch, which Jason developed into this one-of-a-kind piece, personalized specifically for the homeowner. The second piece is a vintage planter bed. Jason modified the structural interior, without ruining the antique exterior, and installed a variety of low-maintenance, low-water-use cactus and succulents.

Robin Stancliff, Stancliff Photography shot the photos and has been shooting Paul's landscapes for the past 15 years.

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VOX

May 2016

Here in Tucson we don't get much in the way of April showers. However, we are still able to enjoy lots of May flowers!

With warmer temps soon approaching, summer becomes a time for us desert dwellers to slow down a bit. It is a great time to relax and enjoy breakfast outside in the garden with our cool morning temps; or enjoy our beautiful sunsets outside on a patio, taking advantage of our cooler evening temps.

People always ask if landscapers are able to install plants during our extreme heat. The answer is yes, our crews work year round and a properly designed landscape can be installed anytime of the year. We are fortunate to have a great selection of flowering plants available for landscape use in Tucson.

A low maintenance, low water use desert landscape does not need to consist of just a few cactus and rock. Seen here in these photos are a variety of plants which will perform well throughout our hot summers: Salvia greggii, Salvia farinacea, Calylophus, Red yucca, Angelita daisy, penstemon and bulbine.

Contact Sundrea Design/Build today if you need help with summer planting, irrigation work, patio design and construction or any landscape needs.

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VOX

June 2016

A great advantage to creating a Master Plan for your landscape is so that it can be installed in phases, while still achieving a cohesive look. Sundrea Design/Build is fortunate to have many wonderful clients who ask us to install a second or third phase of their yard. It is always fun to see how nice things look after several months or years; and it is always good to catch up with old friends!

We did a frontyard renovation for this client a couple years ago and recently completed this backyard renovation for them. A large, high-water-use pond was removed and replaced with a much smaller water feature. The property consisted of several beautiful established trees which we designed the new landscape around. A hodge-podge mix of paving materials was removed and a new flagstone patio was laid out to create multiple sitting and entertaining areas.

The homeowner can enjoy the different 'outdoor rooms' depending on the time of the day, time of year, or number of people using the space. Whether relaxing on a Sunday afternoon, having morning coffee, or entertaining dinner guests, this thoughtfully designed space will accommodate any occasion. In fact, this couple will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this month with a party in their new outdoor space! We are flattered they asked us to create this special place for their special day.

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# sundrea

VOX

July 2016

In just a few weeks this backyard was transformed from an uninspired space into a peaceful, inviting landscape. All the plants, irrigation, lighting, concrete patios and metal fabrication were installed by our expert in-house crews.

Paul came up with a clean and simple patio design, expanding the existing cramped outdoor living area into the backyard. The playful positioning of individual concrete pads invites you to either of two new outdoor rooms; a larger space for outdoor dining; or a smaller more intimate space. Large shrubs were removed from the small backyard and appropriate sized low-water-use plants were added.

Last but not least, the homeowner challenged Paul to come up with a use for three copper rain chains which she salvaged from her old house. With no real practical use for them at this new home, Paul came up with a clever idea of repurposing them into something decorative which he calls a 'rain tree'. Scott fabricated the steel tree and the entire team collaborated on the construction details. The rain chains were separated and reconfigured into various lengths and artfully hung from the steel branches.

Creating and incorporating art into an exterior space is one of our specialties, making your landscape an inspiring place. To see more of our work, check out our new website: [SundreaDesignBuild.com](http://SundreaDesignBuild.com)

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VOX

Aug 2016

Leaders in the landscape industry have been preaching the use of native plants and rainwater-harvesting for decades. It's exciting for me to hear more and more clients asking about rainwater-harvesting cisterns as part of their landscape design.

Collecting and storing rainwater in tanks for re-use is known as 'active' rainwater-harvesting and can be a great idea for your home. Another method to consider is 'passive' rainwater-harvesting, which consists of contouring your property to catch and direct rainwater to your plants and allowing it to slowly filter into the ground.

Planting native wildflowers such as *Verbena gooddingii*, *Angelita daisy*, *Paper flower*, *Desert zinnia*, *Blackfoot daisy* and *Penstemon parryi* along the edges of basins allows them to absorb seasonal rainwater as they would in nature. These desert wildflowers can be short-lived, maybe only surviving a couple of years. However, if provided a proper environment, they will reseed themselves and once they've established their own natural rhythm (along with a little maintenance) you'll always have a nice looking landscape.

Within a year this new landscape will begin to establish itself and thrive by filling in much of the negative space, just as it would in nature.

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Before



After





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VOX

Sept 2016

We just started this renovation project and since there are no 'after' photos yet, I thought we could focus on our amazing crew.

Jason and I developed a Master Plan which includes renovating existing patios and creating new outdoor spaces. Jason is talented in many aspects of landscaping from design and estimating to horticulture and lighting.

Eric and Marco have been pruning trees, removing old shrubs and replacing with new. Eric is organized, self-motivated and takes pride in his work. Marco enjoys the variety of work whether it is planting, irrigation or rock work. We also started Eric and Marco on a regular maintenance program to ensure this new landscape will be properly taken care of.

We are installing a new Rachio irrigation controller which is monitored and adjusted from a cell phone. We'll also be installing FX Luminaire LED lights which can be programmed to allow the brightness of each fixture to be adjusted from your phone as well.

Scott and Mark just completed this custom metal fence and did all the welding and fabrication on site. Both Scott and Mark are Masons by trade but skilled in all types of construction.

Each crew member has particular areas of expertise and we all work together as a team to get the job done right. Check out our website to learn more about the crew, including our Office Manager, Suzi.

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Oct 2016

Here are a few fun projects we've done for one client in stages over the past year.

First, to jazz up the south side of the house, we created a rusted steel planter bed to visually break up the masonry wall. We planted cactus in the bed which will continue to grow and further add visual interest. Subtle boulder terraces help define the space and allow better accessibility to the back yard.

In the back courtyard, a water feature had previously been removed which created an awkward void in this small but prominent area. To hide the water-stained masonry wall, we installed a piece of rusted steel which also serves as a decorative backdrop for artfully placed pieces of basalt. The gray Mexican beach pebble is a pretty contrast to the rust and brown colors of the basalt.

Finally, on the north side of the house, we broke up the slope by creating a series of gabion walls. Lengths of rebar had to be drilled vertically into the solid rock slope. Sheets of steel mesh were cut and formed into cages around the rebar and filled with rock, gathered from the site. Plants and irrigation were added in the areas between the gabion walls to attract hummingbirds and butterflies.

Although these three projects were done in different areas of the yard and on three separate occasions, each solution uses steel in a different way to cleverly and cohesively tie the yard together.

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Nov 2016

This was a project we completed two years ago. The big mesquite tree was causing the courtyard wall and walkway to heave and crack. Instead of cutting the roots and harming the tree, a section of wall was removed and replaced with decorative metal. Sections of the concrete walkway were removed so that a brick pathway could be laid for a cozier, more inviting entry way.

You can see in the 'After' photos, plants and rock were added to soften the space and enhance the architecture. Two years later in the 'Today' photos you can see how the plants have established themselves. It's always exciting for us to return and see how our projects continue to evolve!

With the holidays and the end of another year fast approaching, soon it will be Thanksgiving and time to reflect. At Sundrea Design/Build we are ever thankful for our wonderful clients who continue to call us year after year to build a patio addition, install more plants, add lighting, or periodically clean up their property. We are also thankful for new clients who typically come as referrals from our current clients.

To show our appreciation, we would like to send a gift card for a national chain store, to anyone who sends us a referral this month leading to a landscape project. Thank you and Happy Thanksgiving from all of us at Sundrea Design/Build.

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Dec 2016

Privacy at this homeowner's pool area recently became threatened when a new home started going up in the vacant lot next door. The solution was to install (6) large 36" box Desert Museum palo verde trees between the pool and new neighbor's house. The Desert Museum palo verde is a fast growing hybrid developed here in Tucson at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum and within a year should provide a nice privacy screen ultimately growing 20-25' tall x 20-25' wide. I always tell clients that plants never read the books and will always grow how they want, regardless of what the books say. However, I've found 'Cool Plants for Hot Gardens' by local Tucson plant expert Greg Starr to be a reliable resource.

This property already had existing landscaping but we did a few other little projects to enhance certain areas of the home. Mexican honeysuckle, nandina and slipper plant were added to a cluster of pots in a shady nook on the north side of the house. On the back patio, yellow-green variegated Yuccas offer a striking contrast to blue-green pots.

It's hard to see in the photo, but the driveway island slopes up considerably from left to right. We brought in a couple tons of soil to mound up the lower left side and balance the space. Working around the existing saguaro cactus, we added clusters of golden barrel cactus, whale's tongue agaves, salvia farinacea, Angelita daisies and boulders.

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