



# LANDSCAPE LIFESTYLES

Tips & Tools For Landscape Professionals

Issue 7



## Inside:

- Introducing the Courtyard Collection  
*Look at what you can do!*
- Project Profile: A Designer's Dream



# A Designer's Dream



When homeowners Phil and Shannon Wondra bought their home in the Denver area several years ago, they dreamed of great things for their property. Avid gardeners and outdoor lovers, they envisioned turning their backyard into a beautiful garden oasis.



Inspired by their years of working for the National Park Service, they wanted to create a natural setting with the beautiful stonework and character they'd seen throughout the national parks from Maine to Washington. The carriage roads and bridges in Acadia, the stone lodge in Yosemite and the rock walls along roadways in Glacier and Shenandoah all created a feeling of heritage and durability they wanted for their home.

They explored the different product options at a local Home & Garden show, and discovered Allan Block. Shannon liked the natural look of the antiqued AB Europa Collection. Phil saw the

"absolutely great design flexibility" of the matching Courtyard Collection. Together the two products gave them everything needed to create planters, posts, seating benches and a low courtyard wall around their patio in a color that complimented their home's exterior.

Phil explained some additional design criteria. "Due to several years of drought, one of our goals was to substantially reduce the size of our yard and the grass we had to water. We replaced it with raised planters and installed a drip sprinkler systems to efficiently keep moisture in the flowerbeds. Lighting was also important to us. Allan Block's hollow core design made it easy to have accent and walkway lighting installed throughout the patio".

Working with a landscape architect for the overall site plan, and Slaton Bros., who did the hardscape plan and construction, they created a stunning design. The project included 50 lineal ft (15 m) of 5 ft (1.5 m) wide raised planter beds using AB Europa, an 800 sq ft (74 m<sup>2</sup>) paver patio with 48 ft (14.5 m) of seating wall using the Courtyard Collection, an overhead pergola and a "grand staircase" leading from the patio to the backyard gardens.

***"Absolutely great design flexibility"***

*Phil Wondra, homeowner*

Phil commented on the installation process, "considering the huge quantity of block, crushed stone, sand and dirt that was staged in our cul-de-sac, I was surprised and delighted to have installation completed within two months. There were a couple of enhancements to the design once we got started, but with such a flexible system, it was no problem."

The end result for Phil and Shannon is a dream come true. "Our backyard gardens are designed to re-create the natural beauty and stonework you'll see in the national parks. Allan Block brought that home to us. We love being out there just enjoying the surroundings. The smooth curves and rockwork patterns; its so amazingly natural and everything we dreamed of".





# Introducing the Courtyard Collection™ by Allan Block®

## Simpler and Easier Than Hand-Laid Stone

The Courtyard Collection combines the beauty of traditional stone walls with the strength and versatility of modular concrete block. This patented system has the look and feel of natural stone but doesn't require the expertise needed for mortared stone.

## Design Versatility

The Courtyard Collection is a flexible system for creating both residential and commercial projects. You can build a variety of walls, posts and other landscape features such as patio enclosures, seating walls, fountains, light posts, and entry monuments using just five block shapes. Designs can easily incorporate curves, corners, step-downs, lighting and patterned walls. The Courtyard Collection compliments our other Allan Block Collections to create complete hardscape environments.

## Simple Construction

Building with the Courtyard Collection is easy. No concrete footings are required and the interlocking blocks fit together without mortar or pins. The system includes both York and Dublin blocks with splitting notches that allow you to easily create smaller pieces for wall details. Individual blocks weigh between 20 to 42 lbs each (9 kg to 19 kg), so they are easy to handle and stack up quickly.



## Color, Texture and Finishing Details

The Courtyard Collection includes both wall and post caps for an attractive finish. Combine Dublin and York blocks for unique patterns and textures. Cap your wall with an accent color for a dramatic effect. The possibilities are endless.



### *Courtyard*

*For the classic look of cut stone.*

- Dublin Block (large block)
- York Block (small block)



### *Old Country Courtyard*

*For an aged, old-world appearance.*

- Old Dublin Block (large block)
- Old York Block (small block)

Check with your local Allan Block Dealer for exact specifications and availability. Visit [allanblock.com](http://allanblock.com) for more information.

Everything you need in 5 easy pieces.

### Dublin



6 in. H (150 mm)  
7 in D (180 mm)  
16.5 in. L  
(420 mm)

39 lbs  
(18 kg)

**Best choice for building straight walls.**

### York



6 in. H (150 mm)  
7 in D (180 mm)  
7.5 in. &  
9 in. L  
(190 & 230 mm)

20 lbs  
(9 kg)

**Best choice for building walls with curves.**

### Corner Block



6 in. H (150 mm)  
7 in D (180 mm)  
14.75 in. &  
15.5 in. L  
(375 & 400 mm)

42 lbs  
(19 kg)

**Build corners or posts.**

### Cap Block



3.5 in. H (90 mm)  
10 in D (250 mm)  
7 in. & 9.25 in. L  
(180 & 235 mm)

22 lbs  
(10 kg)

### Post Cap Block



3 in. H (75 mm)  
12 in D (305 mm)  
24 in. L (610 mm)

70 lbs  
(32 kg)

All specifications are approximate.



# The Courtyard Collection™ - A Modular

The Courtyard Collection gives you tremendous design flexibility. The modular blocks, and



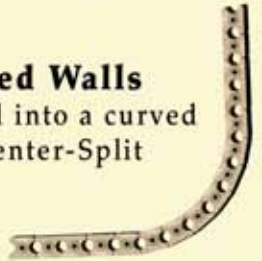
## Create Curved and Serpentine Walls

Curved walls can be easily created using pre-set radiuses built into the block design. See How-To sheet #200. Custom designed curves can also be created - with some cutting and fitting of blocks.

## Combine Straight and Curved Walls

Transitioning from a straight wall into a curved wall requires splitting a Dublin Center-Split block on every other course.

See How-To sheet #130



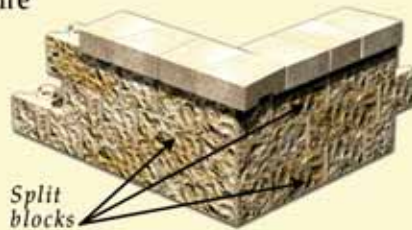
## Build Circles

Building with circles and curves is easy - just stack two courses at a time for the best alignment. See How-To sheet #130.



## Build Corners

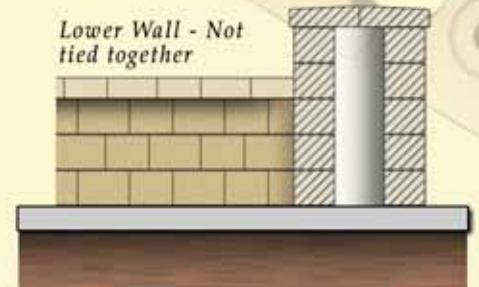
Building corners requires one corner block and one split block on every course. See How-To sheet #180.



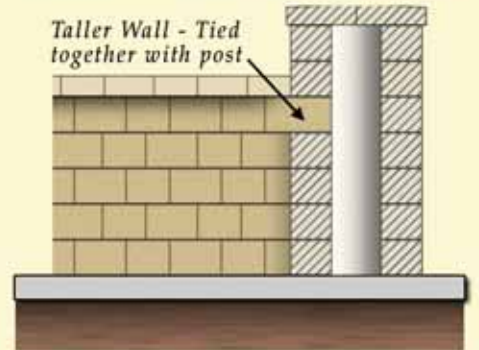
Split blocks

## Added Stability for Taller Panels

For added stability on taller panel sections, we recommend tying the panel into the post. See How-To sheet #230



Lower Wall - Not tied together



Taller Wall - Tied together with post

## Combine Wall Panels and Posts

The Courtyard collection makes it easy to combine wall panels and posts. Create great architectural affects using either straight lines or curves. See How-To sheet #190.



## Splitting Blocks

The Courtyard Collection includes both Dublin and York Blocks with splitting notches that allow you to easily create smaller pieces for wall details. A masonry hammer and chisel is all you need to split blocks. For projects that require many cuts, a masonry saw is recommended. See How-To sheet # 210 for detailed instructions.



Use chisel score and break block on premarked area.

Pre-marked break line





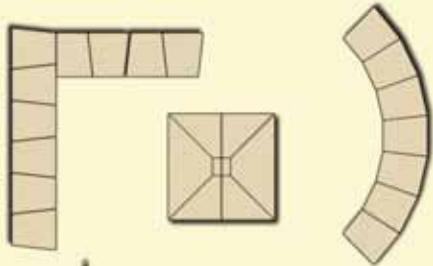
# System With Unlimited Design Options

*the ability to easily split blocks, provide capabilities unlike any other vertical wall system.*



### Build Patterned Walls

The versatile Courtyard Collection can be used to build walls with one block shape or a combination of both the Dublin and York blocks. Create your own patterns or use the ones shown here. If you have larger curves in your design use both blocks. For smaller curves use all York blocks.



### Finish with Wall and Post Caps

Wall caps create an attractive finish to your project. The versatile wall caps are designed to easily finish straight or curved walls with no cutting. Two post caps complete each post, and modify easily to accommodate lighting.

*See How-To sheet #100.*



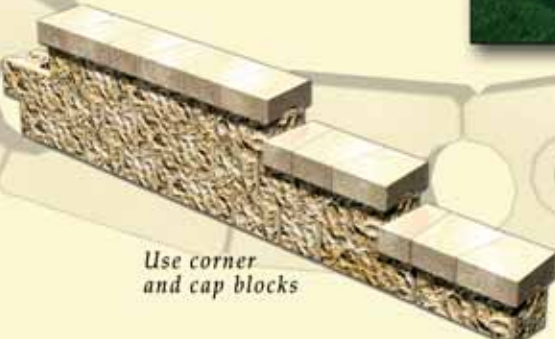
*End panel with a post*

### Ending Walls

The Courtyard Collection lets you end or step down walls in a couple different ways. End the wall with a post for a dramatic effect or use step-downs to compliment your wall design. *See How-To sheet #160.*



*Use corner blocks*



*Use corner and cap blocks*



## Additional Resources

Visit [allanblock.com](http://allanblock.com) for helpful resources and construction tips when building with Courtyard Collection.

Check out the library of Courtyard How-To sheets and videos for instructions on wall reinforcement options, interlocking walls and posts, building radius walls, weekend projects and more.





# Great Ideas and Resources for Landscape Professionals

## Allan Block Featured on DIY Network – See the Video

For a quick look at how easy it is to build with the Courtyard Collection, check out the DIY kit featured on the DIY cable network and [diynet.com](http://diynet.com). Contractor Joe Pierce of Hickory Hardscapes comments on his work on the project. *“The Courtyard Collection is easy to work with, goes up fast and looks great. It’s the perfect compliment to my hardscape business”.*



## AB Rewards Program - Get Your Rewards

If you are a landscape contractor that’s been AB certified through an Allan Block training seminar and have installed an Allan Block project this year – see your local Allan Block representative about your AB Rewards Kit. Earn valuable merchandise, apparel and business tools for your company. Visit [allanblock.com/rewards.asp](http://allanblock.com/rewards.asp) for more information.

## Contractors – Get a FREE Estimating Tool

The Courtyard Collection estimating wheel makes estimating materials quick and easy. Save time and expense by quickly calculating the wall and post blocks, cap blocks and foundation materials you need. Ask your Allan Block dealer for a **FREE** Courtyard Collection estimating wheel with your first order. *Offer available to landscape contractors with their first Courtyard Collection order, expires September 30, 2005.*



## Landscape Design CD - Complete Design & Installation Information

For professional landscape ideas and inspiration, sign up to receive Allan Block’s Landscape Design CD at [www.allanblock.com](http://www.allanblock.com). Packed with information to help you plan, design and build courtyard walls or landscape walls up to 6 ft high (1.8 m), this CD includes product specifications, installation guidelines and a valuable material estimating program.

## Sign up to get **Landscape Lifestyles** by e-mail.

To receive the AB Landscape Lifestyles Newsletter by e-mail each quarter, sign up online at [allanblock.com](http://allanblock.com).

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