



## ASK THE DESIGNER

MY COURTYARD IS SQUARE AND VERY BLOCKY and I want to soften the look with some curvy lines. What's the easiest way? Kelly Smith, Manchester



KATRINA KIEFFER-WELLS Earth Designs

"This similar courtyard in Romford, Essex, looked especially blocky because it had square tiling. To disguise the sharp angles, we installed a large sandstone circle in the centre of the space, edged with pebbles and with a step outside the patio door. Behind the paved area we made three deep-stepped

curved planters, bespoke manufactured in GRP (Graham Roberts Plastics) fibreglass. Textured plants such as heuchera and grasses help create a deeply lush and verdant feel that softens the space further, while remaining reasonably low-maintenance. We also added a curved chair inspired by 1920s art deco club chairs that was integrated into a wavy planter containing a large silver birch tree, which created a curvaceous feature that acts as a focal point. We then used plants in pots to dot around the space and soften the lines even more."

Katrina Kieffer-Wells is a garden designer at Earth Designs. Find out more at earthdesigns.co.uk/blog

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