



# A New Look for a Mature Property

**H**ilton Head Island is known for its homes nestled into nature, making use of many indigenous landscaping materials, and the Dunbar home is one of them. Situated in Sea Pines Plantation, the property has many beautiful amenities and interesting facets to it. However, as is common with many of these mature homes, the homeowners felt it was time for a fresh look for the landscaping and the pool area.

“I love the space outside, but the pool area was not spacious enough for entertaining and socializing,” said Joanne Dunbar. “I searched for a solution and found the creative ideas of The Greenery to be the perfect fix needed to maintain the character and integrity of our home, while bringing it in to the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”

As with many mature landscaping projects, the goals were simple – to use materials and products that reflected a Low-Country lifestyle, keep the landscape low maintenance and give the property a definite wow factor.

The pool area, located in the front yard, was a simple linear design with a Jacuzzi, perfect for the 80s but ready for a facelift. It was a closed-in area with a wrap-around fence. The space was cramped for entertaining and socializing due to the proximity of the fence. The team at The Greenery proposed moving the fence 9 feet, re-doing a retaining wall and putting in an impervious-paver patio. The pavers provide a more up to date and practical option than brick, with greater visual appeal and percolation.

**This “before” photo shows lack of grass in yard before the transformation.▷**

**The bed in front of the fence line was updated with a mix of new plants and plants from other parts of the property that were large enough to be pruned, divided and moved.▽**

#### TIPS FOR A FACELIFT

If you have a mature landscape, maybe it's time for a facelift at your own property. Here are a few suggestions that may help in planning your new project.

- Have a budget in mind.
- Collect plenty of pictures and examples of landscapes that are appealing to you.
- Come up with an end goal, for example, entertaining, meditating or playing.
- Make a list of materials and plants you like.
- Consider using more than one subcontractor to get the job done properly.



The homeowner had some mature plants that she wanted to keep in the new landscape. ▽



Laying new pavers was the first part of transforming this patio area. ▽



The end results of the pool makeover show how, hard as it may be to get rid of established plants, taking out overgrown shrubs and replacing them with dwarf varieties can open up an area.



△ A bronze sculpture ensures the Dunbars will see blooms in their garden all year long.

◁ Moving the fence out a few feet helped provide more space to entertain, and impervious pavers allow rain to soak into the ground instead of running off.



△ Pruning and trimming mature trees helps enhance the natural beauty of their trunks.

The outdoor shower got an update. Instead of the existing wood decking for the shower area, watershed-style pavers were installed. Now the space was visually updated with an environmental advantage. The water from the shower would percolate into the ground. A planter was also re-designed to brighten up this area.

As the project got underway, the homeowner decided to also work on including new plantings in the courtyard, replacing a brick walkway and re-sodding the front yard for greater curb appeal. To offer a cost-effective landscaping solution, many existing plants were transplanted to

alternative areas or pruned and trimmed into healthy, coiffed plantings. After pruning and trimming, the older plant material looked rich and hardy without threatening to overtake the property any longer.

New plants were put into the landscape as well, to freshen up the look. A few that were used include ‘Little John’ bottle-brush, ‘Jack Frost’ ligustrum, tea olive for its summer blooms, canna lilies for a tropical touch around the pool, rosemary for fragrance and muscanthus and muhly grass for interest in the fall and winter.

“We also re-landscaped the outside with new ornamental grasses, tropical plants and some fragrant scented options. The transformation was amazing,” said Skip Briggs, supervisor at The Greenery.

‘Empire’ zoysia was used to sod the front yard to provide a rich, green grass. The combination provided beautiful curb appeal as well as updating all the exterior areas. ☺

*Skip Briggs is project supervisor at The Greenery, Hilton Head Island, S.C., [www.thegreeneryinc.com](http://www.thegreeneryinc.com). Photographer Mike Ritterbeck is with Hilton Head Video, Hilton Head Island, S.C.*