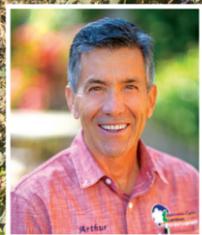


# With Time and Proper Care...



By Arthur Navarrette  
Executive Care Landscaping

**PAVERS | PATIOS & WALKWAYS | STAIRS & RETAINING WALLS  
DRY RIVER BEDS WITH BOULDERS | WATERFALLS & FOUNTAINS**



Before



After



2 Years Old



2 Years Old

Welcome to our winter edition. I trust everyone had a good Christmas and New Year. Spring is just around the corner, and if you are thinking of re-landscaping your yard, or if you already have a blank canvas and need to make your back or front yard inviting and useful, now is a good time to start considering what you want. If you are not sure, that too is not a problem. We can help. I speak to many clients throughout the year and helping them with their landscape is a pleasure for me. If you need ideas, you can view our website, and/or click on publications. These are the landscapes that we have featured in TheHomeMag. If you do not receive TheHomeMag, send your request to [bryanmcnabb@theHomemag.com](mailto:bryanmcnabb@theHomemag.com), and let him know that you are my client.

When deciding on a landscape, sometimes it makes it easier to select a theme. The most popular is a Northern California theme. This theme has plants that agree with our climate. There is also a Tahoe theme, as is featured here. A Mediterranean theme is not tropical but has some influences of tropical. This is a good alternative if you are thinking you want tropical. The hardier palms go into the Mediterranean theme. With tropical, the plants do not like our summers or winters. I have done a few over the years and as long as you are willing to cover the

plants with a frost blanket in the winter, or on the hot summer days use shade cloth to cover them, the plants should do fine. They should also be fine if you have afternoon shade. Another popular theme that is really fun is the Asian theme. Though many of the Asian-type plants can handle our winters, they do not like our summers. Their native environment's humidity is much greater than here. For example, along the Bay area where the humidity is similar, they do fine. The coastal humidity acts as a filter from the sun's summer rays. Regardless of which theme you select, all of our landscapes will be colorful, artful, and low maintenance with an interesting selection of plants. No plants that we use will require a lot of pruning, unless we need height for screening purposes. We routinely use plants that bloom and/or have great fall color. I grew plants in wholesale nurseries for 15 years prior to starting Executive Care in 1989. This experience has given me a wide and deep knowledge of many plants, which is the key difference from an average landscape to an artful, inviting landscape.

Something that I enjoy doing with all of our clients as we are getting close to needing plants is to tour Green Acres Roseville. We discuss the plants that will work for our respective theme. I also teach about the care of the plants.

Since I do not talk to other landscapers about cost, my only feedback comes from my clients. They say I am competitively priced, or even less, however the landscapes are superior to what they have, or seen others do. For example, a client will start with one landscaper for the backyard or front thinking that they cost less than us. That's the normal thought. When I come for an appointment and deal with the portion that was not done, I always ask, "Why did you not hire them back?" Most clients will say that the experience was not worth having a second time. And when we start a job, for example the front yard, we get hired back when they are ready to do the back. We become friends. That's all I will say about us. I normally do not even say this much. On our website I have client comments that I always encourage new clients to read.

Our featured landscape as mentioned, is a Tahoe theme. It was a lot of fun creating this in downtown Sacramento. It is very unique compared to the normal landscapes in the area. This is the second time we are featuring it. You can compare the installation two years ago to what it is currently. I am very pleased with it. The plants have caught up with the boulders. Boulders do not grow, so you have to landscape with the size you need, and it will continue to come into its own. Thank you for taking the time to read the article. Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Enjoy, Arthur

***Executive Care***  
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LANDSCAPES OF DESIGN

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