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# backyard

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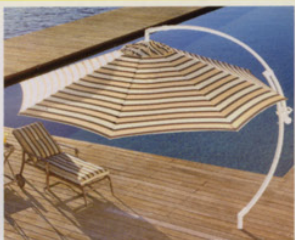
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**WORD TO THE WISE**

A SHOWCASE OF  
WATER-SMART  
GARDEN DESIGN

## Starlight *cinema*

With your very own outdoor cinema, you'll be the envy of your neighbours this summer

**a**s day eases into night, this lush garden undergoes a transformation. A collaborative effort between landscape designer Kent Martin of Tranquil Earth and his brother-in-law, an expert in all things audio/visual, this is a multi-purpose family garden with a big difference.

There's a raised deck for dining, a circular seating area for cosy, intimate chats and an expanse of lawn where the kids — and family Labrador — can play. At night, the various zones meld into one as the whole garden makes the transition to ... outdoor cinema.

The projector and screen are supported by two large timber crossbeams which have been integrated into the garden as design features. The permanent cabling and fixtures have been attached to the beams in such a way that they're almost unnoticeable during the day. The projector is connected to the home theatre system and DVD player inside the house and can be controlled by a single remote control. The screen is radio-controlled and automatically drops when the home theatre system is activated.

To deliver cinema-quality sound, this system uses six-speaker Surround Sound. These particular speakers aren't waterproof, but it only takes a minute or two to hook them up to their permanent connections. Of





course, marine-grade weatherproof speakers are available. With everything hooked-up and ready to go, all the family has to do is decide whether to sit on the timber deck at the back of the house, where they can recline in one of the long and low fold-up chairs, or take the chairs down onto the lawn.

Because you don't want to be plunged into total darkness while your favourite movie plays, low-voltage halogen lighting bathes the garden in a subtle glow. Hooded lights have been inset into the retaining wall, uplighting has been directed at feature plants and a light has been placed in the base of the water feature.

