

FROM BORING TO BACKYARD BLISS

Build an airy, roomy and stylish pergola and take your outdoor lifestyle up a notch!

Summer is all about alfresco dining, when you let the soft summer evening breezes take out the heat of the day. A pergola adds another room to your home but one where you can get back to nature in your own backyard. And don't stop at open-air night dining, enjoy breakfast and lunch in your outdoor room, as well!



STEP 1



STEP 2

PROJECT **BUILD A PERGOLA**

Gather your supplies

- 90 x 90mm x 3m H4 treated pine posts
- 185 x 30mm timber
- 110 x 18mm dressed timber
- 42 x 42mm primed H3 treated pine baluster handrails
- 66 x 42mm primed H3 treated pine
- Primer and exterior paint

You'll also need

Tape measure; post hole digger; fine drainage gravel; spirit level; quick-set concrete; timber braces; clamps; circular saw; construction adhesive; nail gun and nails; drill; countersinking drill bit; 75, 100 and 125mm construction screws; mitre saw; paint trays and rollers; paintbrushes

For you to note

- Every site is different, so use these steps as a guide to plan and build your own pergola with decorative features.
- Prime all raw timber after cutting to size, and apply 2 coats exterior paint to all primed and pre-primed components.

Here's how

STEP 1 Determine the size of your pergola, and measure and mark post locations. Here, the pergola is over an existing paved area so pavers were lifted to allow for posts. For more of a designer look, this pergola has additional internal posts 500mm in from the main corner posts at front and rear with balustrading in between.

STEP 2 Excavate post holes to about 500mm deep and 150mm wide using a post hole digger. Add about 30-40mm of fine drainage gravel to the base of the hole, then a little dry quick-set concrete and position post. While post is held plumb, ensuring the side and front are checked, add



STEP 3

concrete in layers, tamping down as you go, until filled to required level. Here, the concrete was finished at a level that allowed the pavers to be re-laid. Repeat to sink all corner posts.

STEP 3 It is critical that all posts are held securely while the concrete sets. Add suitable bracing, holding in place with clamps. Use a spirit level to check posts are true, plumb on front and side, as you tighten the clamps.



STEP 4



STEP 5



STEP 6



STEP 7



STEP 4 Trim heads of all post to your finished height. Cut 185 x 30mm beams to size to fit around the outside of the posts. This will form the main frame of your pergola. Front beams should have a 30mm overhang on outside of posts to allow side beams to be butt-joined. Apply construction adhesive to front of post where beam will sit, position beam, clamp in place, predrill for screws, countersink, then secure through face with 100mm construction screws. Repeat for sides then predrill, countersink and secure butt-joint with 75mm screws. The internal decorative posts can now be concreted in place, plumbed and secured to the beams with 100mm construction screws.

STEP 5 To give your posts a neater finish, clad them with dressed timber. Cut 110 x 18mm timber to size and secure to the sides of posts with construction adhesive and nails, with a 20mm overhang at front. Fix strips of 90 x 10mm timber with adhesive and nails to the rear of posts and to the front between side boards.

STEP 6 Cut 3 internal beams from 185 x 30mm timber. These run from front to rear and are evenly spaced. At each end clamp a 30mm offcut under the outside beams as a support as you position internal beams. Predrill and countersink each end from outside face of external beams and secure with three 125mm construction screws.

STEP 7 To add extra shade and visual interest, create a grid pattern through the internal beams by adding

◀ GO THROUGH THE ROOF!

A pergola roof is ripe for decoration. Festoon the rafters with lights for long summer nights or grow climbing plants that snake up the pillars and crawl across the roof - climbing hydrangea or wisteria give shade in summer, sun in winter!

“ Create an elegant yet relaxed alfresco sanctuary with a classic white pergola ”

blocking with sections of beam. At even spacings, add beams between the side beams and main front-to-rear internal beams to create a box pattern. Screw through beams into the end of the sections with 75mm screws however, where required, secure by predrilling on an angle, countersinking, then driving in 75mm screws. Repeat on a smaller scale on some of the created 'boxes' to add extra design flair.

STEP 8 For decorative trim, cut 90mm and 42mm timber to length of beams with mitred ends. Glue and nail 90mm lengths to beams, then attach 42mm.

STEP 9 Build balustrade panels using 66 x 42mm primed pine for rails and 42 x 42mm primed pine for balusters. Install between posts. ■



STEP 8



STEP 9



Stockists

Bunnings Hartman Brooklyn dining table, 200 x 90 x 75cm, \$555. Miami dining chair, 63 x 57 x 83.5cm, \$289 each. Marquee timber deck chair in Blue and White stripe, \$65. Mimosa Hayman bar cart, \$225. Two Trees single macrame hammock, \$43.80. **Country Road** May cushion 60 x 60cm in Pale Grey, \$79.95. Eden waffle throw in Olive, \$199. Lorne wine glasses in Amber, \$17.95. Lorne jug in Amber, \$49.95. Hast marble board, \$99.95. Tapas large salad bowl, \$49.95. Theo timber shallow bowl, \$99.95. Ester cocktail glasses set of 2, \$49.95. Lorne salad bowl small, \$39.95. **Freedom** Elvira hi ball glasses in Dark Grey, \$14.95 each. Elvira pitcher in Dark Grey, \$29.95. Lux Terrazzo side table, \$399. Ligure woven large natural urn, \$199; Small, \$129.

