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## Designing a better border

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BEFORE

### A foundation that stands too tall

The unattractive, exposed concrete foundation wall at the back of this hillside home stood out, so designer John Holden of Trumbull, Connecticut, developed the idea of foundation plantings to its fullest potential. He planted a climbing hydrangea (*Hydrangea petiolaris*, USDA Hardiness Zones 4–9) so that it climbs up the wall, effectively blending the corner of the house into the landscape. He then added the flowers of ‘New River’ bougainvillea (*Bougainvillea* ‘New River’, Zones 9–11) and the foliage of ‘California’ elephant’s ear (*Alocasia gageana* ‘California’, Zones 10–11) with ‘Lime’ devil’s ivy (*Epipremnum aureum* ‘Lime’, Zone 11) for extra color to highlight this transitional space leading to the steps.



BEFORE

### The dead space beneath a deck

Melissa Clark, a designer in Bethesda, Maryland, transformed this under-deck area from an eyesore to an asset. “My client calls it a faux potting shed,” explains Melissa. Though the area beneath the deck is not actually a potting shed, it’s dressed up to look like it is, lending an air of elegance to the space. An attractive stone wall and well-crafted lattice panels for climbing plants add to the beauty of the facade. Steps that lead to a working door—allowing access to the utilities beneath the deck—complete the illusion.

