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## Pillars and lampposts add class

Continued from pg. 6

With much having been written about patios, planters and driveways, lets take a look at some of the great features which can be built from some of the new mortarless— modular concrete products on the market today.

One of the easiest features you can build for the least amount of money, yet adding the most to the value of a property, are pillars or lampposts. Lampposts or pillars add a classiness to the front of a home, which almost no other feature does. They can do several things: provide aesthetic lighting, delineate property lines, mark out entrances, and facilitate signs and mailboxes.

As for the type of modular concrete block, there are some which are better suited for pillars than others. Generally speaking, the modular concrete blocks should be dimensionally consistent and in a ratio that offers flexibility in design. Also, one should take into consideration the overall design of the landscape, and other features such as steps or planters, which may also need to be built at the same time. One of the easiest products to work with is Brussels Dimensional® (4"x 8" x 12") (10cm x 20 cm x 30cm) which has been "tumbled" to give the block an antiqued or weathered look. This dimensionally compatible block is easy to use and flexible enough to design pillars, steps, and planters. This block has no locking mechanism between units. However, this is not a problem because the units can be "glued" together with a superior concrete adhesive. It is recommended that you use an adhesive recommended by the manufacturer for the application. Other modular concrete blocks can also be used to construct

pillars. Some may have "keys" such as the ever popular Roman Pisa® which may need to be modified or removed completely in order to construct the pillar. Depending on your skills and your budget, you should closely examine the simplicity of the system prior to the installation. Some systems take modification than others, to accomplish the desired results.

The actual installation of a pillar with a plain dimensional block takes about 4 hours for one person. This would include the preparation of the base, the stacking and securing of the modular concrete blocks and the attachment of a lamp base to the top layer. Actual time may vary with complexity of design, accessibility,

and soil conditions.

Another great project for these modular concrete retaining wall units is a barbeque. This feature is definitely an extension of the "outdoor room". The installation of a barbeque using modular concrete units is much same as it is for building a pillar or lamppost. Design, base preparation, size and complexity all come into play for the final product. Many barbeque manufacturers make units that can be "built in". Contact them for installation specs and dimensions. Once you have the dimensions, you are ready to design your own "built-in" barbeque project.

Benches, fountains, waterfalls, lampposts, pillars, gates, fencing, planters, steps, mailboxes, signs, and barbeques are only the beginning. When designing the "outdoor room", there are endless possibilities in what you create with modular

concrete units!

For more ideas on what you can create, visit www.unilock.com.

-Ray Rodenburgh

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Gardening Tip Tree Planting Instructions Without trimming the central leader, thin interior branches and foliage plus enclosed galvanized wire ring " from all sides. 2 or more 2" x 2" hardwood stakes. Remove Plant tree in ground to the same depth as it was at Cut and remove burlap from upper 1/3 of ball. Remove synthetic string and fabric. the nursery. 2" specified 3" mound of earth

Sunshine Peat Moss

3.8 cu. ft.

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