

Designing Your Pergola

Weather

It's no use pretending you'll enjoy reading the paper or having a coffee if there's a nippy draught swirling around, so do take wind breaks into consideration but make sure it doesn't impede those cool summer breezes. Sun glare can also be annoying so take this into consideration when selecting roofing materials.

Privacy

Suburbia has many an example of an unused pergola area because the owners feel 'looked at' by neighbours or even passers-by on the footpath. Well positioned shrubbery can help create that sense of seclusion. Another alternative is a lattice or slat screen.

Size

Make room - the crowds coming! It may be your grown up kids with their kids but all together, it is like having a football team around - both sides. Then again, you may prefer, just two or three visitors at one time. Whatever your needs, do make sure you design adequate space between chairs, tables and barbecue facilities. You may wish to include planter tubs or perhaps a squatters chair. Mark out the proposed area using a cord, garden hose or lengths of wood, position your furniture items and then adjust the size to suit. This way you're sure the design will be functional before you start building.

Style

Bear in mind the style of your home and make sure the style and proportions on your pergola are in keeping with overall appearances.

Day Or Night

This will also play a role in your design process. For example, if most of your entertainment is after dark, then finding your way down the path to the entertainment area carrying trays of food and such like could be hazardous. However, by building it close to the kitchen it could become a much used facility and far less hassle if entertaining after you've come home from work.

Design Considerations

Adding a pergola to your home can improve its appearance enormously. It can soften hard architectural lines, especially with 2-Storey homes, make the house structure look longer or wider and of course, provide a colour break especially with masonry/brick homes. Features such as pergolas can certainly make any garden look attractive.

