

REAL ESTATE | DESIGN

Moats, Trampolines and Crazy Pools: The Wildest Requests Pro Landscapers Have Fielded

Home and landscaping specialists recall the most over-the-top outdoor designs their clients have asked for—some of which they actually pulled off



BRIDGE TOO FAR A Texas homeowner hoped to install a moat and drawbridge around their property.

ILLUSTRATION: MAXIM USIK

SOME OF US might debate placing any sort of decoration in our yard. Will our neighbors find even a discreet tin deer statue pretentious? Other homeowners, however, freely pursue extravagant landscape ambitions limited only by their imaginations. Santa Barbara designer Margie Grace recalled designing and installing over 10 types of gardens on a three-acre site in five months. "A couple of months later they called," she said, noting that she and the clients are still friends. "They wanted to put in a model (ride-on) train that ran 'round the whole thing—and the adventure continued." Here, a collection of the most fantastical outdoor-design directives professionals have ever confronted.

"We designed an elaborate terrace with wall panels of rusted steel, a water feature, outdoor kitchen—you name it. The biggest challenge? Meticulously detailing and designing comfortable areas for the dog to go to the bathroom." —*Brianne Bishop, interior designer, Chicago*