



Great divides

Unique classic and contemporary fencing as screens and accents for gardens and patios

By Adriene Biondo

LIVING THE MID-CENTURY MODERN lifestyle brings the outdoors into focus in wonderful ways. Indoor-outdoor living presents us with unlimited opportunities to re-envision our homes and embark on creative landscaping projects.

Perhaps you and your family are looking to screen a backyard patio with a reduced-height accent divider to make it even more inviting, or were inspired by a magazine featuring mid-century style breeze block fencing that would work perfectly across a section of your front yard.

Installing such decorative fencing can also go a long way towards establishing boundaries along a property line, providing a safe, sectioned-off play area for children, or adding a discreet sense of privacy to a pool area.

Selecting the fence design and height that work best for your project requires visualization and planning. You'll also want to choose a material and installation type that will work for you in the long run. Will it be a DIY project or require consulting with

a contractor and design professional? A little research goes a long way to ensure the success of your project.

Today there is a variety of contemporary and mid-century-inspired fencing on the market. Choose from an array of designs and materials that range from durable resins and sturdy steel to bamboo, concrete, and block. Many are offered in aged patinas, textures, and colors that can be coordinated with your home.

To give you an idea of what's out there, and help make your shopping experience enjoyable, we've selected a cross section of offerings, from genuine Eichler grooved siding made from solid Western Red Cedar; to 'Circllet,' a bubbly breeze block design that's available in colors like saffron and coal; to 'Panacea,' a geometric vertical trellis that might be just the perfect ingredient to solve an outdoor garden need.

We hope you'll enjoy these ten creative options, and feel inspired to incorporate one of them into your next home or garden project.

1 VERADEK PANEL

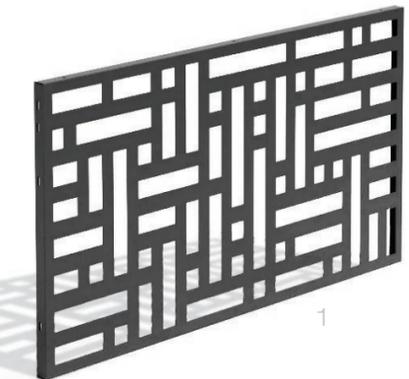
Billed as being "inspired by traditional geometric patterns from around the world," these decorative metal fencing/screen panels by Veradek offer an attractive look in black. Made from

laser-cut galvanized steel and designed to resist corrosion. Solid, yet lightweight and protected by a strong, scratch-resistant powder coat. 48 inches wide x 24 inches high. \$90 per panel. wayfair.com



2 CIRCLET

These screen blocks (aka breeze blocks) feature a bubble pattern that offers airflow, sun protection, and style for miles. Cast from a dense mixture of cement and sand, these durable blocks are available in eight different colors (including saffron yellow, as pictured), and designed for non-structural, non-load-bearing applications. 7.5-inch squares, sold in bundles of 12. Samples available. \$13-16 each. tesselle.com

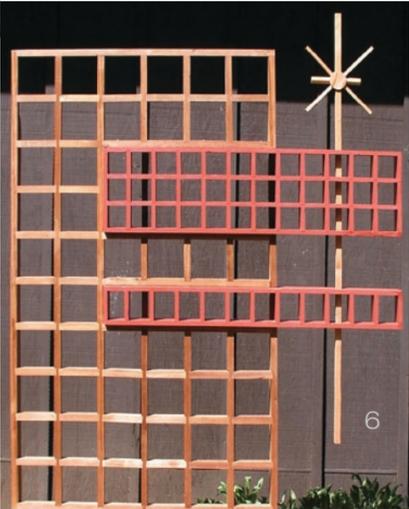
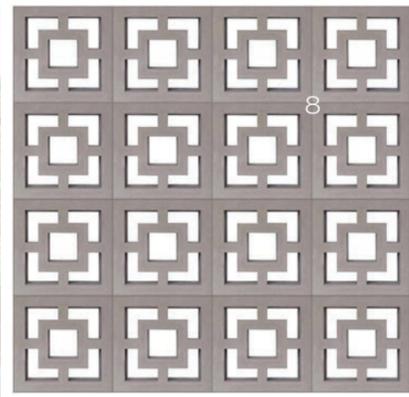


3 LASER CUT

Offered by Fency, this aesthetically pleasing Laser Cut metal privacy screen is ideal for sectioning off spaces for semi-privacy. Available in white, black, and brown finishes. Panels are made of 2mm galvanized steel with a scratch-resistant powder coating. 76 inches high x 47.2 inches wide. Free shipping. \$239-299. wayfair.com

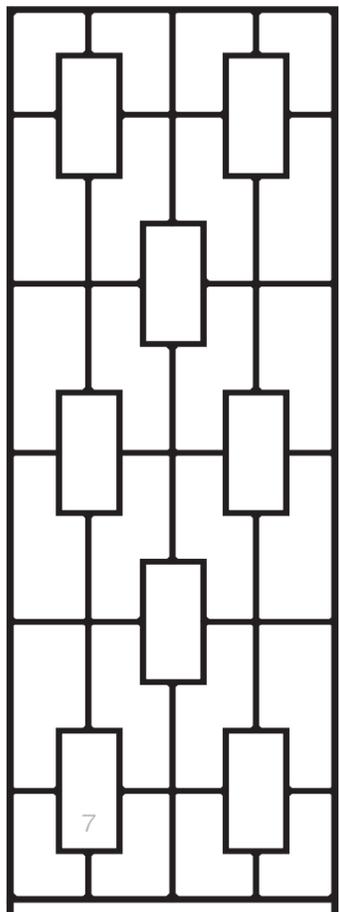
4 BAMBOO REED

Sometimes a simple roll of rustic bamboo reed fencing just fits the bill. This classic is flexible (literally!), weather-resistant, and easy to install. Natural black bamboo made of durable Tonkin cane from southeast China. Bamboo stock is said to "have the equivalent strength of many alloys of steel." 72 inches high x 168 inches long. \$88 each. houzz.com



5 ECLIPSE MODERN ART

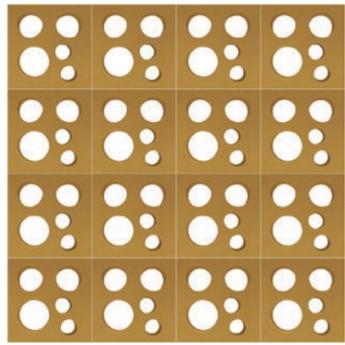
Hand-created by Philip Dunphy of Metal Art Fever, 'Eclipse' panels double as striking metal modern art for the modern home. Available in panels of bare metal (to paint yourself) or in rusty Corten steel (an engineering steel that rusts slowly). In stainless



steel: 24 inches x 48 inches. Free shipping. \$319 (stainless). MetalArtFever/etsy.com

6 MCM MARQUE TRELLIS

Here's an outdoor divider or privacy screen that's portable. Its Space Age style was inspired by the Society Dry Cleaners sign in



entryway or assembling in a row to create the desired boundary effect. Constructed of metal, in a black finish. 23 inches wide x 78 inches high. Sold in packs of two. Free shipping. \$155. bestnest.com

8 TOWN SQUARE BLOCK

A mid-century classic, breeze blocks are on-trend everywhere, from Palm Springs to Portland. This modernist option offers more than style, with



flexibility in installation and as much airflow as desired. Cast from a dense mixture of cement and sand, and designed for non-structural, non-load-bearing applications. Available in white. 11.4-inch squares, sold in bundles of six. \$36-38 per square. tesselle.com

9 EICHLER SIDING FENCE

Nothing shouts 'Eichler homes' like vertically grooved exterior siding. Eichler Siding, in business since 1987, now produces grooved fencing. Hand-milled in San Rafael from kiln-dried, tight-knot Western Red Cedar. Available in ThinLine and WideLine as 48-, 72-, and 96-inch lengths. An ideal choice, even as a reduced-height patio screen, for that seamless Eichler look. Call for quote. eichlersiding.com

10 GLASS VIEW FENCE

Custom designed by JC Miller of Vallier Design Associates for the historic X-100 steel Eichler in San Mateo, this sleek glass 'view fence,' which feels like there's no fence at all, can be a fantastic option. Pictured as 60 inches high x 96 inches wide (each glass panel). Built by Smollen the Builder, who can modify Miller's design for your own project. Pricing based on specs. smollenthebuilder.com

Photography: Tom Fitzgerald; and courtesy fencing product manufacturers