



# A Showcase of Fences and Gates (and Privacy Screens)

by LC/DBM Staff Report

*In his famous poem “Mending Wall,” Robert Frost repeated a well-known proverb with the line “Good fences make good neighbors.” And though fences have traditionally been used to mark property boundaries and provide privacy, the following pictorial shows that they also help with noise abatement, directing pedestrian traffic, keeping animals out of gardens, and enhancing the beauty and charm of a locale.*



**Left** Contractor: Waterfalls Fountains & Gardens  
 Designer: Matthew Giampietro,  
 Waterfalls Fountains & Gardens  
 Location: Florida  
 Materials: Ipe, CMUs, Stucco  
 Dimensions: Gate (left of stucco wall) - 5’ tall x 6’ wide; Wall - 7’ tall x 9’ wide; Fence - 3’ tall x 20 lineal feet  
 Special Interest: The gate is a service access to the backyard, and large lawnmowers need to fit through. The gate ended up weighing so much that to prevent it from sagging, a wheel that rolls on a concrete track was installed at the bottom of the gate. Everything had to meet the code requirements for child safety for swimming pools.

**Top** Contractor: Vert Gardens    Designer: Gunn Landscape Architecture    Location: New York City  
 Materials: Cedar    Dimensions: 4’-6” – 8’ tall x 93 lineal feet    Crew Size/Project Length: 4 people/1-2 weeks  
 Special Interest: As part of a contemporary, low maintenance common space, this fence covers over damaged brickwork and provides separation from a neighboring restaurant.

**Below** Contractor: Southwest Fence and Deck  
Designer: Archiverde Landscape Architecture  
Location: Texas  
Materials: Bark-on cedar  
Dimensions: Approximately 4' tall x 60 lineal feet  
Crew Size/Project Length: 4 people/1.5 weeks  
Special Interest: This rustic fence encloses an area for herbs and vegetables. Varying sized, round, galvanized steel troughs were used as above ground containers, so the owner can do her gardening without bending over.



PHOTO: TORREY FERRELL



**Above** Contractor: Progressive Landscape Design  
Designer: Jeff Allen Landscape Architecture  
Location: North Carolina  
Materials: Cedar with a solid stain and cast iron hardware  
Dimensions: Fence - 3' tall x 34 lineal feet  
Crew Size/Project Length: 2 people/1 week  
Special Interest: The 8'-tall "moon" gate is on axis with the shade garden and establishes a view to the rear yard.

**Right** Contractor: Pacific Style Landscape  
Designer: Pacific Style Landscape and Todd Noice LLC  
Location: Washington  
Materials: Cedar, 8"x8" CMUs, cultured stone veneer  
Dimensions: Wall/fence - 4' tall x 20 lineal feet; Arbor - 8' tall x 4' wide  
Crew Size/Project Length: 2 people/1 month  
Special Interest: The client was very specific about limiting straight lines. First the contractor set a foundation, mortared the blocks into a curve, put sleeves into them for the fence posts and veneered the blocks with cultured stone. The arbor was fitted together using dowels, and mortising round tenons through each post.





**Left** Contractor: Thor Construction  
 Designer: Chris Gent Landscape Studio  
 Location: Chicago  
 Materials: Cedar  
 Dimensions: 75 lineal feet  
 Crew Size/Project Length:  
 2 people/7 days  
 Special Interest: This custom slat fence mimics the existing fence of the neighbor to the east, but provides the transparency-level requested by the neighbor to the west. A trellis canopy within the fence shades the patio area, and integrated lighting provides a nighttime accent.



**Above** Contractor: Aesthetic Metals, LLC  
 Designer: Shedd Aquarium Location: Illinois  
 Materials: 1/4"-thick aluminum panels powder coat finished in Tiger Drylac Super Durable Gold, fabricated steel posts  
 Dimensions: 100 lineal feet  
 Crew Size/Project Length: 4 people/ 8 weeks  
 Special Interest: This fence's purpose was to prevent foot traffic through the landscaping to and from the back entrance of the aquarium and the parking lot. The panels were cut with a water jet.



**Above** Contractor: Morena Welding  
 Designer: Daedalus Design Group  
 Location: California  
 Materials: Rebar, stained glass  
 Dimensions: 36" tall and 20 lineal feet (L-shaped)  
 Crew Size/Project Length: 3 people (2 for fence, 1 for stained glass)/2 days (1 for fence, 1 for glass)  
 Special Interest: Randomly spaced circular art glass pieces, inspired by a toy from the late 50s early 60s called a Whee-Lo, were incorporated into this safety fencing. The rebar was left to rust naturally.



**Left** Contractor: Bigelow Design  
 Designer: Bigelow Design  
 Location: New York  
 Materials: Fence panels in lengths of 8' and 16', 3"-round posts, 6" x 6" pressure-treated beams  
 Dimensions: 48 lineal feet  
 Crew Size/Project Length: 1 person/4 days  
 Special Interest: The fence panels are referred to as "hog fence." One 16' panel was shaped to create an arch. Solar light caps were added to the posts.



**Below** Contractor: Texas Land Care  
 Designer: Archiverde Landscape Architecture  
 Location: Texas  
 Materials: Recycled concrete for base, vintage cast iron panels for fence  
 Dimensions: 8' tall x 90 lineal feet  
 Crew Size/Project Length: 5 people/ 3 weeks  
 Special Interest: During the construction, the neighborhood children were invited to come and insert mementos in the mortar joints of the wall. This included seashells, pottery and small toys. Some of the old concrete slabs were chiseled and used to create a handsome wall cap.

**Above** Contractor: ERA Construction  
 Designer: Community Design + Architecture, Inc.  
 Location: California  
 Materials: Perforated and solid metal panels applied over a welded wire mesh fence  
 Dimensions: 8' tall x 210 lineal feet  
 Crew Size/Project Length: 5 people/4 weeks  
 Special Interest: This fence was meant to provide a private school bordering a multi-use pathway with security and some privacy while giving pedestrians and bicyclists adequate sight lines. Lockable gates are integrated into the fences to allow school personnel convenient access to a storage area on the other side of the pathway. The fencing uses standard city finishes and colors for ease of maintenance.



**Above** Contractor: Gulf Stream Construction  
 Designer: George A. Z. Johnson, Jr., Inc.  
 Location: South Carolina  
 Materials: Concrete fence system in ashlar blend pattern  
 Dimensions: 36,000 sq. ft.  
 Crew Size: 12 people  
 Special Interest: This was the first sound wall constructed in the city of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. Due to the tight schedule, the contractor decided to mass-produce the bond beams by precasting them off-site and trucking them to the site.



**Above** Contractor: Slaton Brothers  
 Designer: City of Lakewood, Co.  
 Location: Colorado  
 Materials: Allan Block mortarless concrete fence system  
 Dimensions: 16,000 sq. ft.  
 Crew Size: 6-7 people  
 Special Interest: Due to the proximity of utility lines, more than 50 percent of the footings were hydrovac excavated. Where the utilities ran close to the surface, the contractors used a concrete box around the lines to protect them during the installation and future construction.



**Below** Contractor: Barnum Gate Services  
 Designer/Fabricator: Barnum Gate Services  
 Location: Minnesota  
 Materials: Steel, knotty pine and hand-hewn logs  
 Dimensions: 6' tall x 14' wide  
 Crew Size/Project Length: 4 people/2.5 weeks  
 Special Interest: The contractor also built the columns that support the gate, which were later veneered with natural river rock. The hydraulic gate operating system is the HySecurity Swing Smart.

**Above** Contractor: Phil May Landscape Architect  
 Designer: Phil May Landscape Architect  
 Location: California  
 Materials: Steel frame, Philippine mahogany  
 Dimensions: 5' tall x 30" wide  
 Project Length: 2 weeks

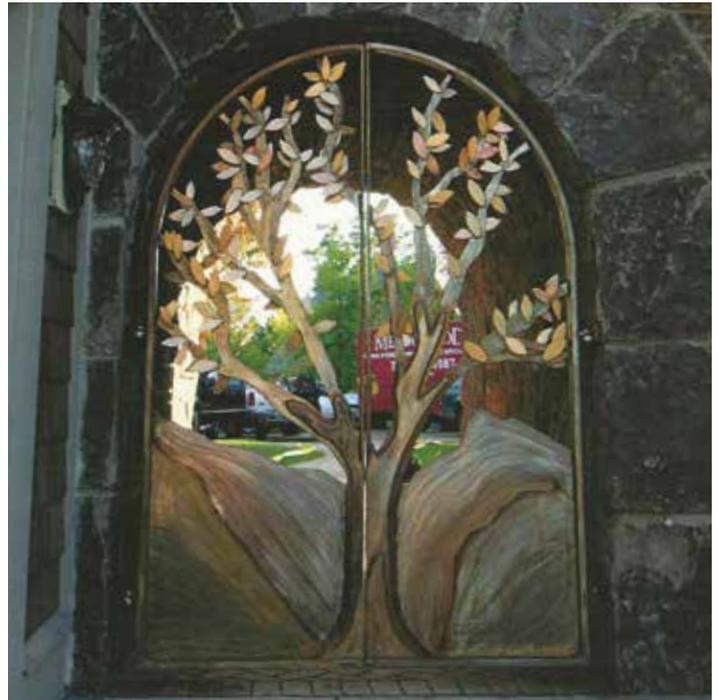


**Left** Designer: Archiverde Landscape Architecture  
 Location: Texas  
 Materials: Antique, steel, arched window custom-fitted into a new frame and converted into a sliding gate.  
 Dimensions: 6' tall x 5' wide  
 Crew Size/Project Length: 2 people/2 days.  
 Special Interest: Located in Fort Worth's eclectic west side, the client purchased the home and garage next door in order to expand her garden.

**Right** Contractor: Barnum Gate Services  
Designer/Sculptor: Skeeter Forge  
Location: Minnesota  
Materials: Hollowed out steel  
Dimensions: 5' tall x 16' wide  
Crew Size/Project Length:  
Fabrication – 1 person/4 months;  
installation – 1 person/1 week  
Special Interest: This three dimensional gate was created with hand-forged steel. The hydraulic gate operating system is the Byan 900 Long.



**Right** Contractor: Creative Steel Work  
Designer/Sculptor: Jeff Kreitz of Creative Steel Work  
Location: Minnesota  
Materials: Copper, steel and stainless steel  
Dimensions: 8' tall x 5' wide Project Length: 8 weeks



**Above** Designer: Phil May Landscape Architect  
Location: California  
Materials: Masonry columns, foam details, steel gate  
Dimensions: 20' x 7'  
Project Length: 3 weeks

**Right** Contractor: Vert Gardens  
Designer: Gunn Landscape Architecture  
Location: New York City  
Materials: Kiln-dried ash inside ipe frames  
Dimensions: 3 gates - 7' tall x 3'-6" wide  
Crew Size/Project Length: Pre-fabrication – 1 person/1 week; Installation – 3 people/1 week  
Special Interest: For this rooftop project, the wooden gates along with planters filled with large Ilex crenata 'steeds' (boxwoods) provide screening, conceal a stairway, hide service areas and mechanicals while still providing access and egress. Regulations did not allow permanent structures that can be visible from the street so the gates are attached to the planters, which are secured together and filled with soil that is heavy enough to support the gate structure.





**Left** Contractor: Waterfalls Fountains & Gardens  
 Designer: Matthew Giampietro, Waterfalls Fountains & Gardens  
 Location: Florida  
 Materials: Ipe  
 Dimensions: 5' tall x 42" wide  
 Project Length: 1-2 people, 4 days  
 Special Interest: This gate separates the driveway and parking court from the backyard pool area. All of the Ipe wood was custom cut on site. A mock up of the layout and dimensions were laid out on site to ensure the spacing and sizes work. The scale of the design patterns need to look good in the setting that the gate will be installed. Too wide or too narrow of the spacing or the size of the pieces will dramatically change the look and feeling of the gate and the space, which in turn can make or break the space. Careful consideration went into the weight of the gate as well. Solid walls make the division of spaces more definite.

**Right** Contractor: Landfour Landscape & MD Construction  
 Designer: Landfour Landscape & Swartz Architecture  
 Location: Georgia  
 Materials: Gate - aluminum grating inside steel frames;  
 Gabion column - McNichols heavy gauged, welded wire mesh  
 Dimensions: Gate - 6' tall x 42" wide; Column - 6' tall x 3' wide x 2' deep  
 Crew Size/Project Length: Gate - 2 people/3 days;  
 Column - 2 people/ 1.5 days  
 Special Interest: The baskets for the gabion column were set and anchored to a concrete footing, then filled with stones from a local quarry. A retrofit project, the original gate's steel frame was painted and its wood grid was replaced with industrial aluminum grating also from McNichols. New hardware was added with push button mechanical access locks.



**Left** Contractor:  
 Hale Landscape  
 Designer: Phil May  
 Landscape Architect  
 Location: California  
 Materials: Precast concrete, steel gate  
 Dimensions:  
 7' tall x 20' wide  
 Project Length: 3 weeks



**Left and Inset** Contractor: Urban Oasis  
 Designer: Environmental Forms  
 Location: California  
 Materials: Cumaru hardwood  
 Dimensions: (4) 5' tall x 10' wide units, (1) 5' tall x 4' wide unit  
 Crew Size: 3-4 people  
 Special Interest: The wood walls were built to buffer a typical concrete block wall. Cumaru was selected to create a soft juxtaposition from the hard concrete pavers and concrete fountain, while its color contrasts the flora. A 5' tall x 8'-6" wide blue stucco wall (inset) was built to draw visitors into the space from the main gate.



**Left** Contractor: Waterfalls Fountains & Gardens  
 Designer: Matthew Giampietro, Waterfalls Fountains & Gardens  
 Location: Florida  
 Materials: Ipe  
 Dimensions: 6' tall x 8' wide  
 Crew Size/Project Length: 2 people/3.5 days  
 Special Interest: This is a screen partition for design effect only. Its purpose is to provide a subtle distinction that you are entering the main entrance to the house from the front walkway. The landscape plants are partially visible behind the feature.

**Right** Contractor: Confidence Landscaping  
 Designer: Landfour Landscape  
 Location: Georgia  
 Materials: S4S clear, all-heart redwood, matte black hardware  
 Dimensions: 5' tall x 5' wide  
 Crew Size/Project Length: 1 person/1.5 days  
 Special Interest: S4S means the wood was cut smooth on all four sides. The heart wood of the redwood tree has no sap.





**Above and Inset**

Contractor: The Garden Artist  
 Designer: Terry Sims  
 Location: Idaho  
 Materials: Kiln dried cedar and the pre-fabricated lattice  
 Dimensions: 6' tall x 6' wide (5 separate panels)  
 Crew Size/Project Length: 2 people/5 days  
 Special Interest: The objective of this project was to screen a neighbor's roof and storage area without closing in the narrow width of this home's side yard. To do that, the fence panels were paired with broad leaf evergreen Laurels to complete the screening between the panels. The lattice was ordered from LatticeStix in San Francisco and then cut to fit.



**Above**

Contractor: Mariani Landscaping    Designer: Barb Foster, Aesthetic Metals  
 Location: Illinois    Materials: 1/4"-thick weathering steel  
 Dimensions: 6' high x 8' wide per panel  
 Special Interest: This residence adjacent to a public park wanted these decorative privacy screens, fabricated by Aesthetic Metals, to block some of the activity. The steel was allowed to rust naturally.

**Right**

Contractor: The Garden Artist  
 Designer: Terry Sims    Location: Idaho  
 Materials: Trex composite fencing product  
 Dimensions: 6' tall x 15' wide  
 Crew Size/Project Length: Fabrication – 1 person/1 week; Installation – 1 person/ 1/2 day  
 Special Interest: Referred to by the contractor as the "Bendy-Board Fence," the goal was to create a screen for privacy off the master bedroom. They fabricated a powder-coated metal structure to attach the 12"-wide boards to. Decorative screws were attached to each side and lined up with the ribs of the frame to give the screen a finished look.

