

Redwood Fences

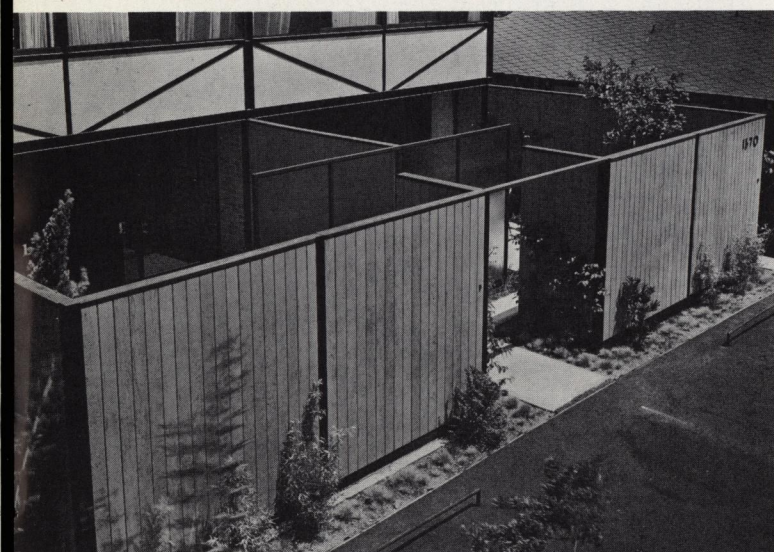
the most natural garden surroundings





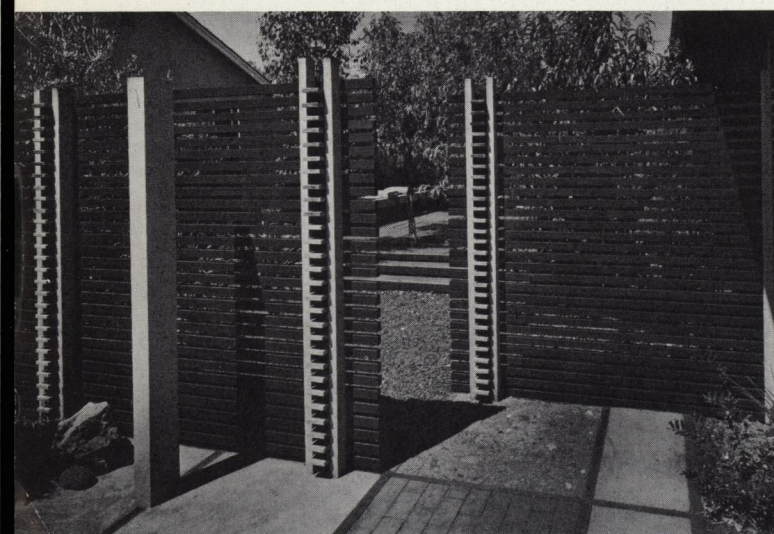
WILLIAM APLIN

Curved redwood screen, besides enhancing driveway, helps turn an awkwardly shaped part of the lot into a private, usable sideyard. Robert Weaver, landscape architect.



MARVIN RAND

Redwood fencing creates handsome entry for garden apartments. Glass screens assure privacy without seeming to intrude into patio space. Craig Ellwood, architect.

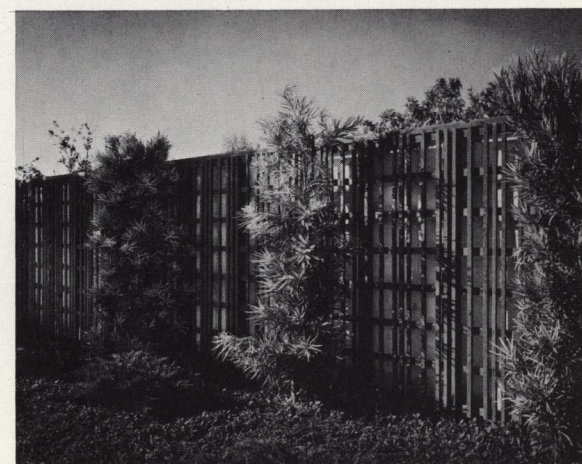


PHIL PALMER

Section of redwood slat fence is set back to allow access to patio without loss of privacy. Fence members are painted in contrasting colors. John Vogley, landscape architect.

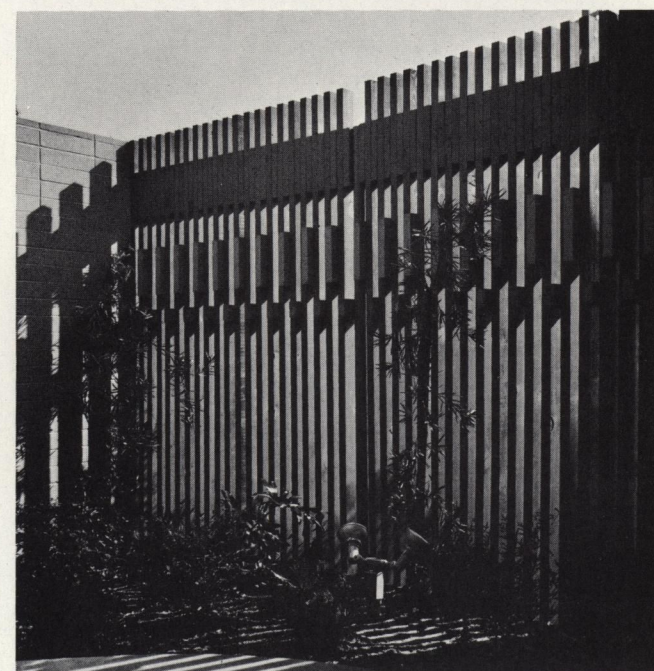
How to plan your fence

One of the most important jobs in building a fence can be done while you're seated at a desk or sipping coffee in the patio. This is the job of planning. First step is to list the things you want your fence to do. For example, a fence can admit sunlight and allow air to circulate or it can block them out. It can furnish varying degrees of privacy. A fence can protect your garden from the neighborhood wildlife and childlife, or it can keep your children and pets in the yard so you know where they are. You can use a fence as a space divider; to define an outdoor living area, or to screen a service yard. A fence can be a handsome backdrop for plantings, and help set just the right mood for the entire garden. Architecturally, a fence can be a picture frame for the home setting; or it can complement the house and make it look larger. Make sure the design fits your pocketbook and your carpentering abilities.



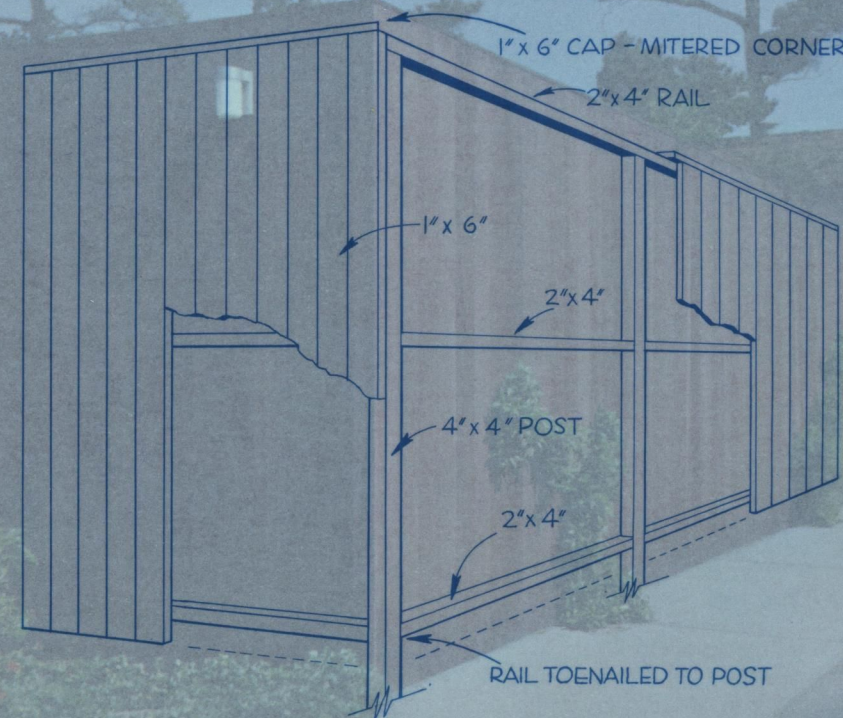
MORLEY BAER

Opaque plastic panels (above) preserve open feeling of redwood latticework fence, yet contribute to complete privacy. In the redwood screen shown below, 1-inch redwood stock was used, except for posts and rails. The structure is floodlit at night. Designed by Robert W. Stevens.

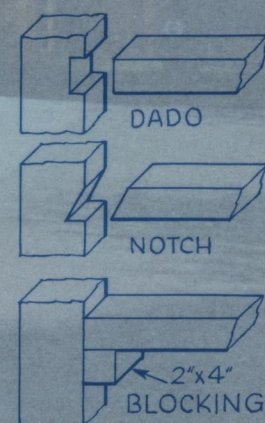


BERT GOLDRATH

Construction details



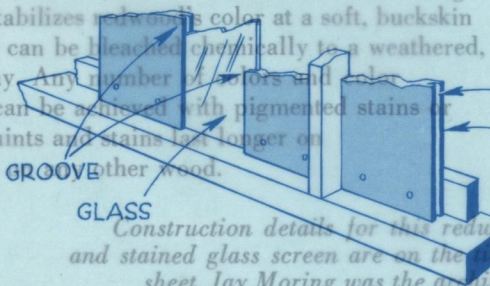
Joints for posts and rails



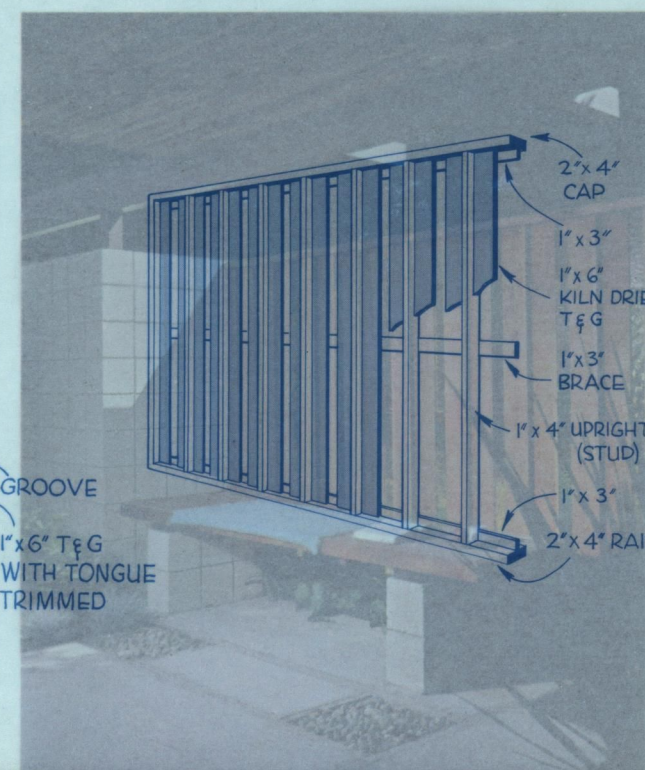
Saw-textured redwood fence (above) has been left to weather without any finish, ultimately will turn a driftwood gray.

Details of the two fences illustrated on the page following appear on this tissue insert. Only the barest essentials of carpentry are needed to build the board fence at the top of the page. Most intricate sawcut is the 45° miter joining the 1x6 cap at the corner post. Center and bottom rails are butted against the 4x4 posts and toe-nailed in place. Alternate methods for joining posts and rails are shown in the smaller detail drawings at right center. Details for the redwood and stained glass screen are at right. The 1x6 vertical boards are saw-textured tongue and groove redwood, Pattern #133. The tongues have been trimmed and the boards positioned for the grooves to receive the stained glass panels and hold them securely in place.

The fence can be left unfinished, to weatherbleach naturally on exposure to sun and rain. It can be treated with a water repellent, which eliminates the natural darkening process and stabilizes redwood's color at a soft, buckskin tan. Redwood can be bleached chemically to a weathered, driftwood gray. Any number of colors and color combinations can be achieved with pigmented stains or paint. Both paints and stains last longer on redwood than on other wood.

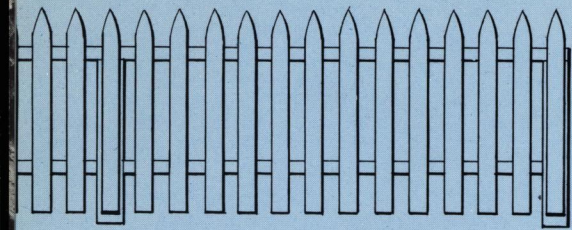


Construction details for this redwood and stained glass screen are on the tissue sheet. Jay Moring was the architect.

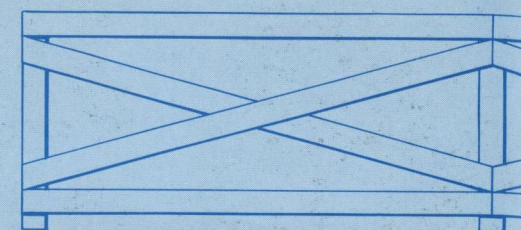
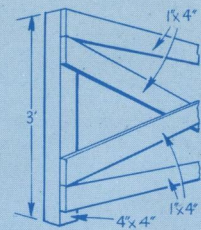
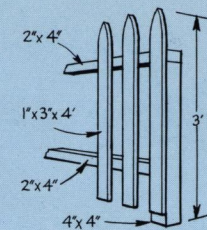


BRUCE HARLOW

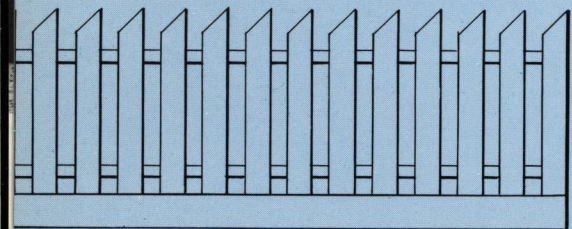
Low fences



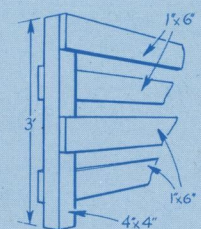
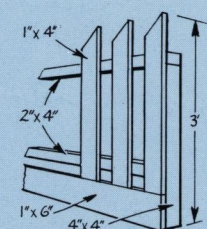
Gothic pickets are traditional favorite.



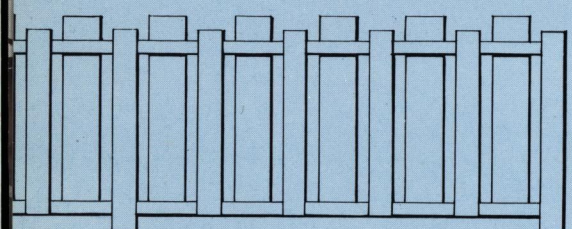
Post-and-rail suits ranch-style homes.



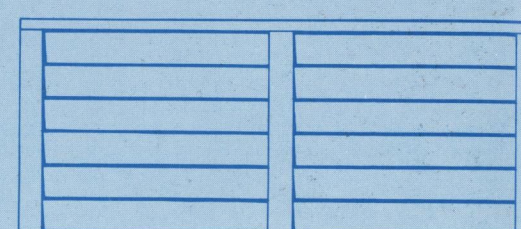
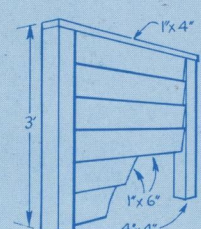
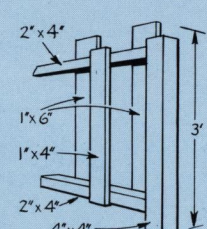
Cut boards are do-it-yourself pickets.



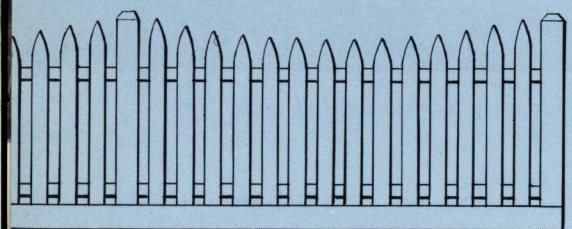
Horizontal board-on-board is informal.



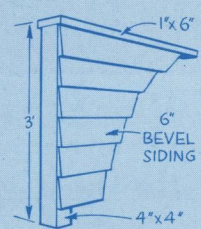
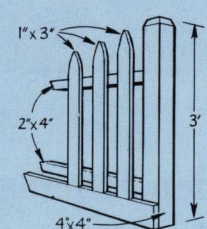
Alternate widths on alternate sides.



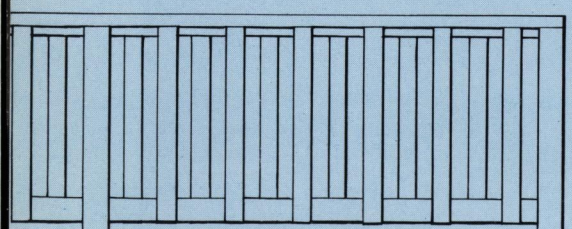
Louvers give privacy, let air circulate.



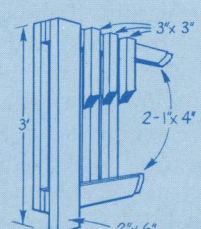
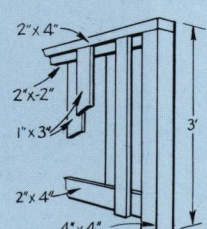
One of many picket variations possible.



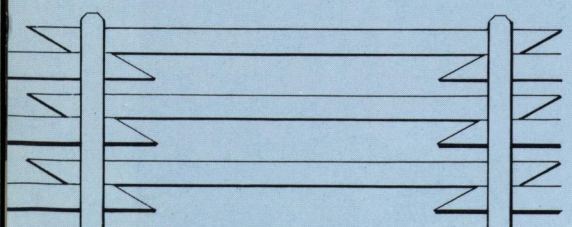
Bevel fence goes with bevel sided house.



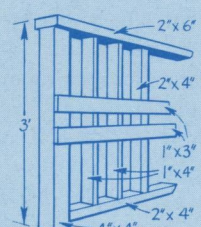
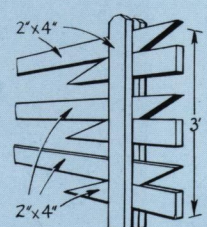
Board-on-board lets in air and sunlight.



Board-and-board fence has tailored look.

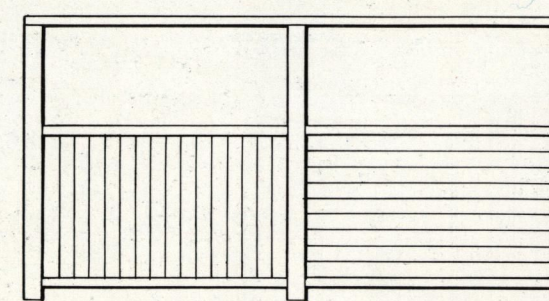


Shaped rail ends form striking pattern.

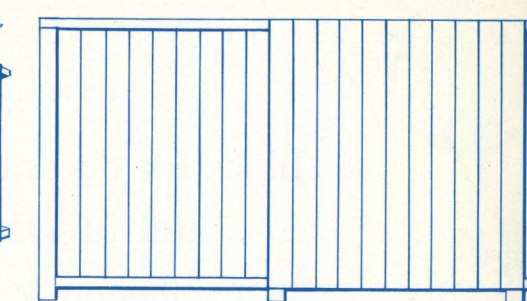
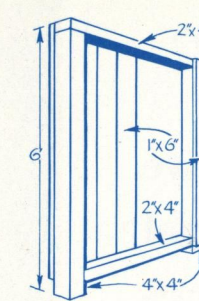
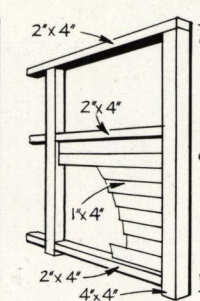


Open design works well in a small yard.

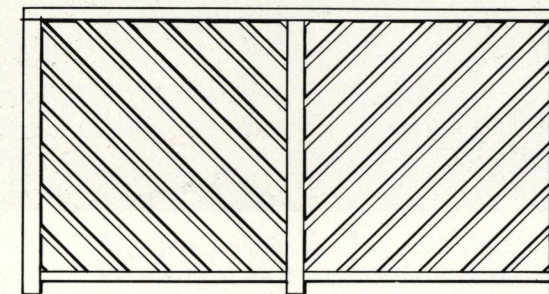
High fences



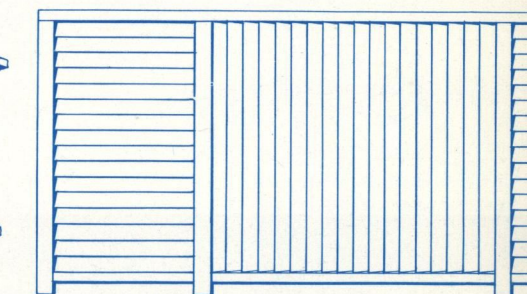
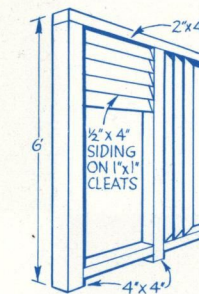
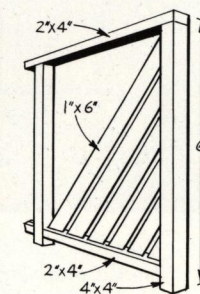
Hill and Dale fence uses special pattern.



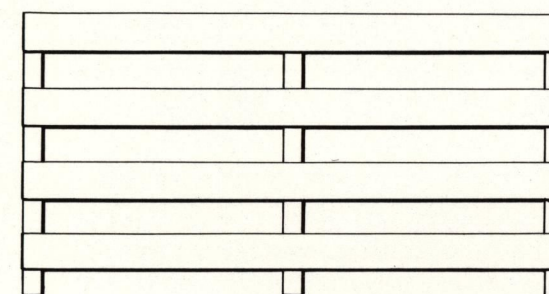
Panels are nailed on alternate sides.



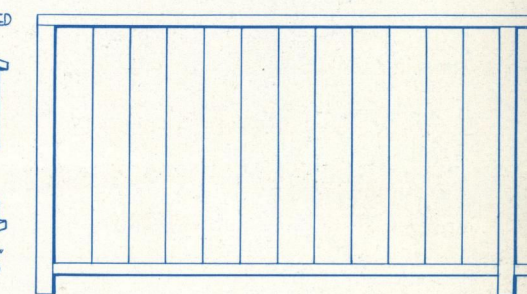
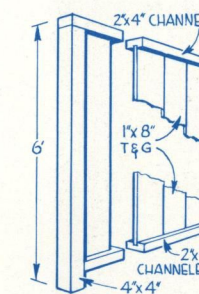
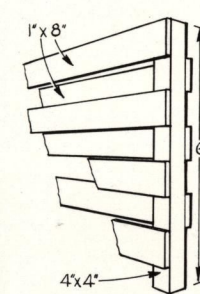
Spacing emphasizes herringbone pattern.



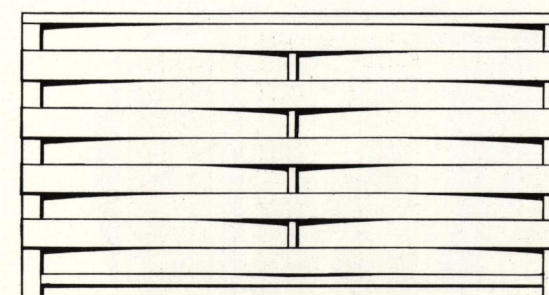
This fence alternates lower panels.



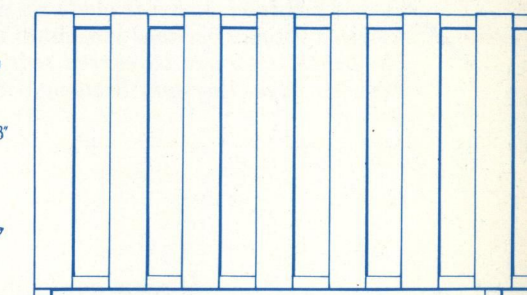
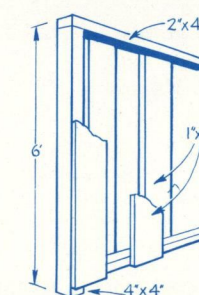
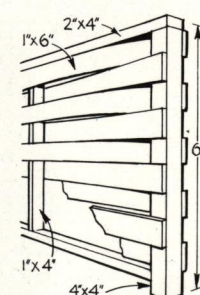
Board-and-board is a good neighbor fence.



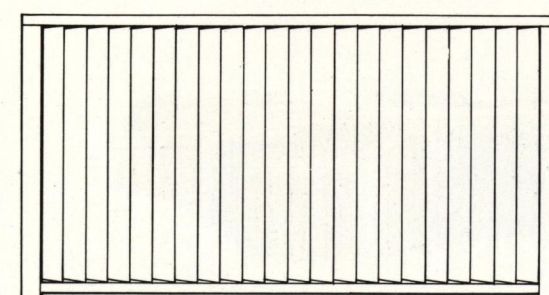
Both sides of this fence look the same.



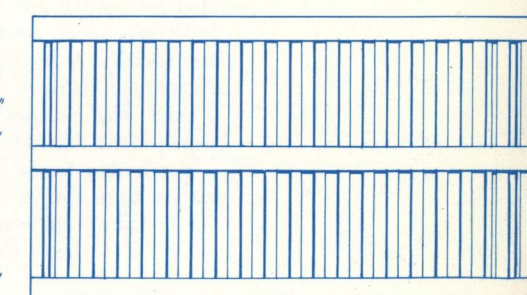
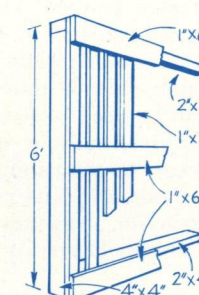
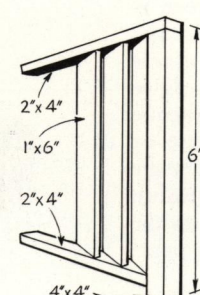
Basketweave produces bold shadow patterns.



Another board-and-board variation.

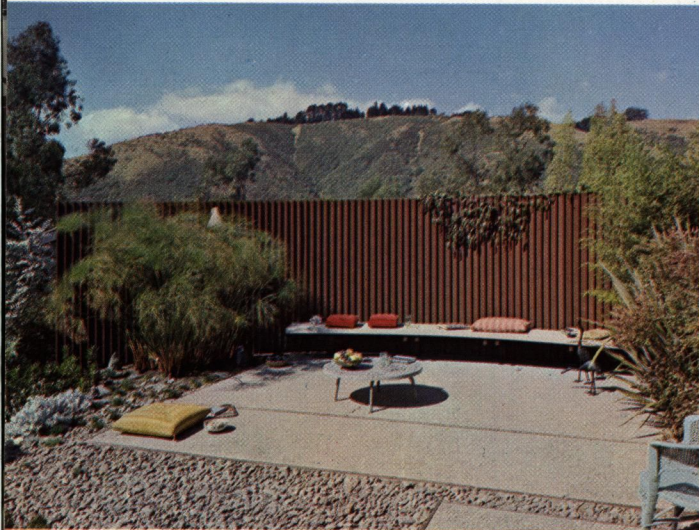


Angle of louvers sets degree of privacy.



Use spacer block to space slats evenly.

Ideas for decorative and functional redwood fences



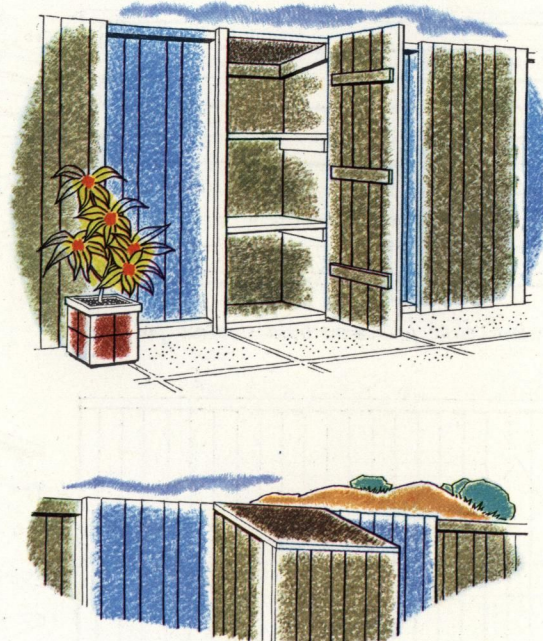
Curved redwood screen is made up of a series of straight sections tangential to an arc. The bench is formed by curved redwood 2x4's on edge. Royston, Hanamoto & Mayes.

Screen conceals outdoor storage cabinet

Drawing at right shows how a screen which separates an outdoor living area from a service yard can also be used for concealed storage. The screen is built in narrow sections in a shadow box design. One section is hinged to provide patio-side access to a storage cabinet which extends into the service yard. The cabinet can be used to store barbecue equipment, children's toys, outdoor furniture or gardening tools. Access to the cabinet from the service area side would make it even more useful. Complete construction drawings are on the tissue insert which overlays this page.



Doubled 2x6's and 2x4's form posts to support overhead beams and slat screens enclosing redwood deck. Beams are finished with pigmented stain. University of California Landscape Design Club.



How to specify redwood lumber

Use only all-heartwood redwood for posts and rails and other fence members likely to be subjected to attack by decay or termites. Natural chemicals in the reddish-brown heartwood protect the lumber from insects and fungi. Sapwood grades of redwood may contain contrasting streaks of cream-colored growthwood. Redwood's growthwood is not durable, and should not be used in those portions of the fence exposed to the ground.

Both heartwood and sapwood lumber is available in grades free of knots and other defects. These characteristics are permitted in the more economical grades, however.

Not all fences are economy structures. Some deserve top grades of redwood, and the extra fine performance of kiln dried lumber. Redwood kiln dried to accepted standards will be marked "Certified Kiln Dried." The CRA trademark is an additional assurance of quality. This appears only on redwood produced by member mills of the California Redwood Association.

Lumber sizes: Most fences are built of 4x4 posts, 2x4 stringers or rails, and 1x8 or 1x10 boards.

Posts should be heavier than 4x4 (for example, 4x6 or 6x6) for fences over six feet in height; for unusually heavy fences, or for structures exposed to strong winds. Always use an all heartwood grade of redwood.

Rails may require 2x6 lumber for heavier structures. Use all-heart redwood for lower rails.

Boards for most fences are one-inch stock, which comes in 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12-inch widths. The 8 and 10-inch widths are preferred because they are readily available and easy to nail. Gothic pickets are available in dressed widths of 1 3/4, 2 1/2 and 3 1/2 inches.

Surface texture: Redwood lumber is smooth-surfaced unless FactriSawn® (saw-textured) lumber is specified. surfaced lumber emphasizes redwood's grain and color. FactriSawn redwood looks like natural wood, but it takes more work to finish, and penetrating finishes last up to twice as long as on surfaced wood.

Construction Information

Setting posts: Your fence won't be straight unless post holes are correctly aligned. Extreme care is advised for this step. Three ways of setting posts are illustrated. Simplest method, if the soil is soft, is to dig a hole around the posts. Use a 2x4 or 4x4 cleat for a heavy fence, or if the fence will withstand strong prevailing winds. If concrete is used, make sure it forms a collar around the post, rather than a full shell which would tend to hold water and rot.

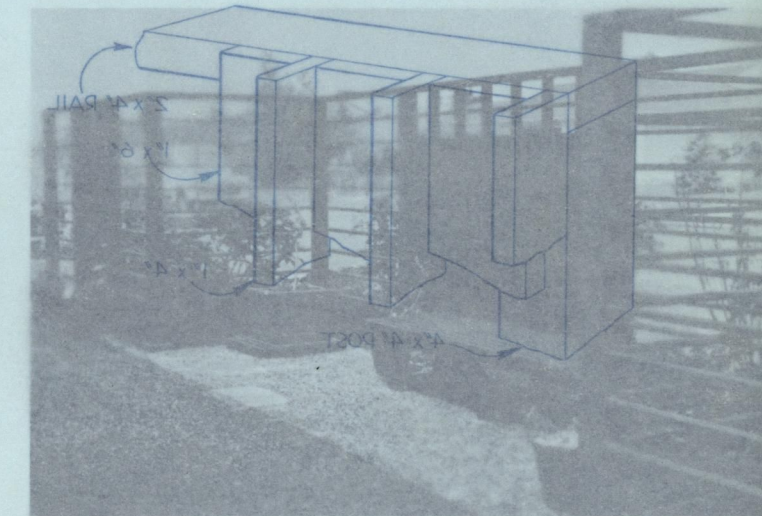
In specifying lengths, specify in mind that posts should be sunk about 12 inches into the ground for fences five feet tall or less; 21 1/2 feet for six-foot fences; 31 1/2 feet for eight-foot fences. Fastenings: Nails or other hardware should be aluminum, or galvanized steel. Other fastenings, such as plain steel, should not be used. These will corrode and lose their withdrawal resistance, and may cause unsightly stains.

Fence heights: Short fences generally are 3 or 3 1/2 feet tall; high fences 5 or 6 feet. There is good reason for conforming to tradition. Lumber is more economical and more readily available at standard heights, and the finished fence will look better.

Width of panels: Lumber availability, cost and appearance dictate the width of individual sections of fence. The span between posts usually is 8 or 10 feet. Longer spans, for the sake of appearance and structural strength, require heavier posts and heavier rails. Short spans of 5 or 6 feet require more posts, but may be necessary for appearance or support with soft designs.



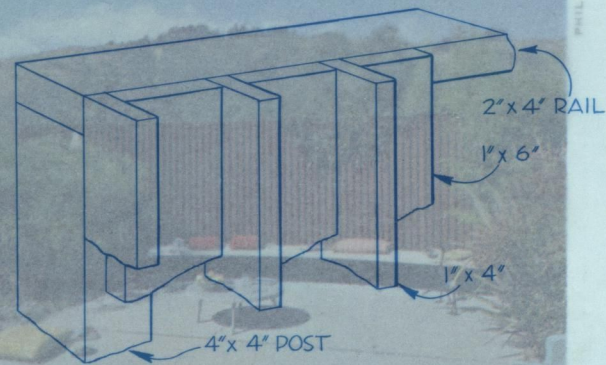
Rough sawn redwood was used for the lowered fence shown above. Fence sections are stepped down because of the downhill site. Theodore Boutmy was the architect. In the fence shown below, carriage bolts are used to fasten the posts to steel braces set in concrete.



Local, state and building codes impose restrictions on fences in many parts of the country. To be sure the fence will stand up to the laws that apply in your area, it is particularly important if the fence encloses a pool or other so-called "attractive nuisance." Check with your neighbor if you are planning to erect a fence on a property line. If you can agree on a design, you can probably get him to share the cost and work of building and maintaining the structure. If you can't agree, you can build the fence just inside your own property.

Gates: Structurally, a gate is a square or rectangular frame, with a diagonal brace running from the top of the frame on the hinged side down to the bottom corner opposite. Hardware should be sturdy and corrosion resistant. Gate posts should be 4x6's or 6x6's, and firmly planted. Make sure the gate is at least 3 feet wide.

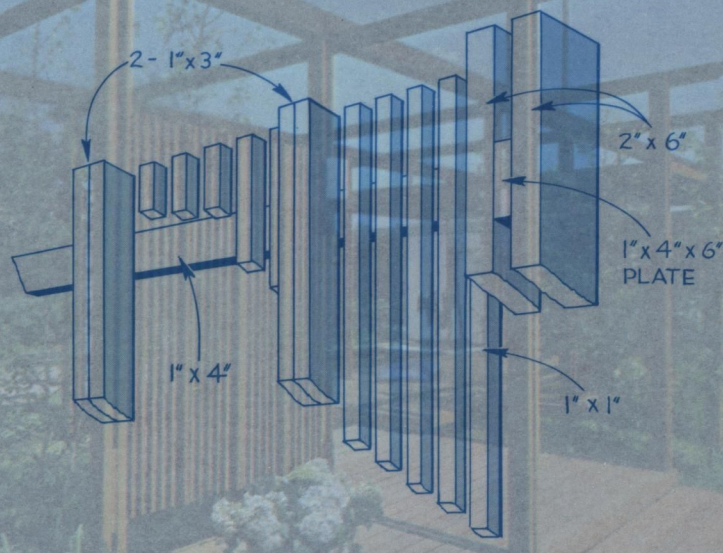
Ideas for decorative Construction details redwood fences



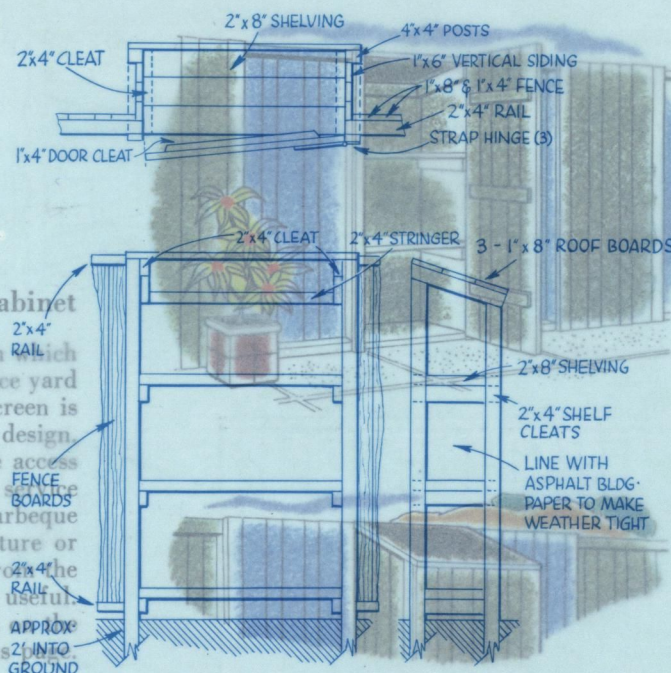
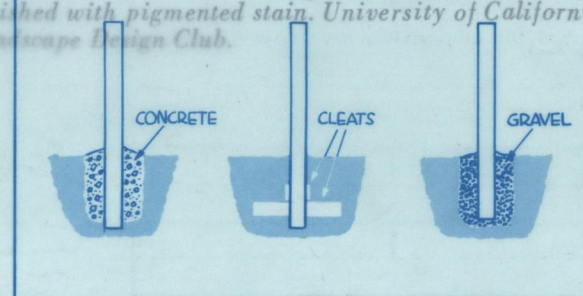
Curved redwood screen is made up of a series of straight sections tangential to an arc. The bench is formed by curved redwood 2x4's on edge.

Construction details for the designs on page 6 are shown on this tissue. Top and center drawings should be self-explanatory. For the concealed storage cabinet, 4x4 posts should be anchored in concrete because of the added strain to which they will be subjected. The cabinet roof is given a downward slant so that it does not interrupt the top line of the fence. A screen can be laid over the roof to keep the roof weatherproof. Make sure hardware and fastenings are corrosion-resistant. On the service yard side access to a storage cabinet which extends into the service area side would make it even more useful.

Complete construction drawings are on tissue insert which overlays this



Doubled 2x6's and 2x4's form posts to support overhead beams and slat screen. Beams are finished with pigmented stain. University of California Landscape Design Club.



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Construction Information

Setting posts: Your fence won't be straight unless post holes are correctly aligned, so extreme care is advised for this stage of the project. Three ways of setting posts are illustrated on the tissue insert. Simplest method, if the soil is stable, is to tamp earth or gravel around the posts. Use a concrete collar or anchor cleats for a heavy fence, or if the fence must withstand strong prevailing winds. If concrete is used, make sure it forms a collar around the post, rather than a full shell which would tend to hold water and promote decay.

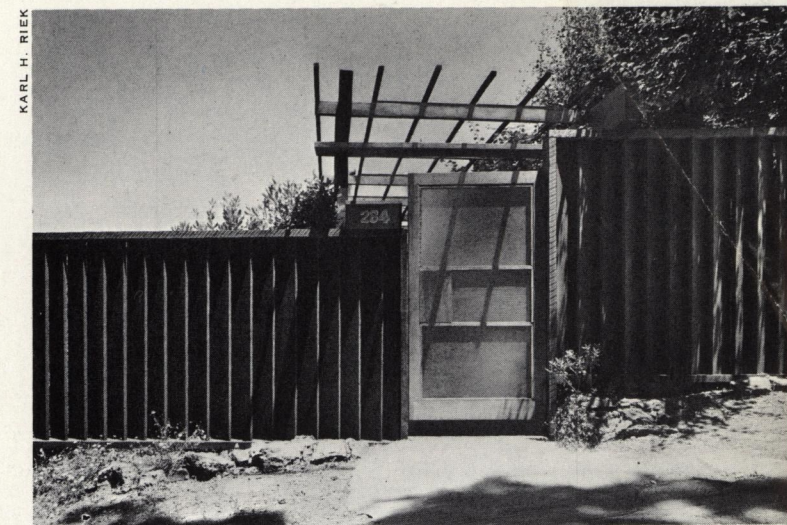
In specifying lengths, keep in mind that posts should be sunk about two feet for fences five feet tall or less; 2 1/2 feet for six-foot fences; 3 1/2 feet for eight-foot fences.

Fastenings: Nails or other hardware should be aluminum, stainless or hot-dipped galvanized. Other fastenings, such as plain iron and steel, should not be used. These will corrode and lose their withdrawal resistance; and may cause unsightly stains.

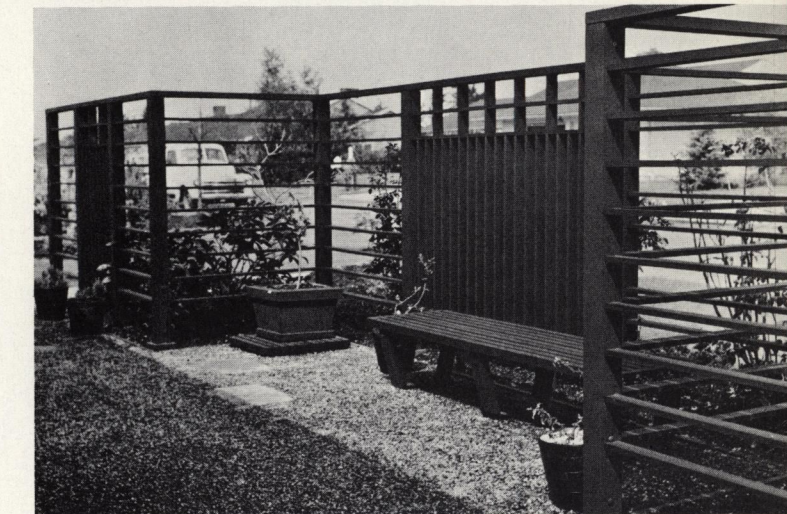
Miscellany

Fence heights: Short fences generally are 3 or 3 1/2 feet tall; high fences 5 or 6 feet. There is good reason for conforming to tradition. Lumber is more economical and more readily available at standard heights (and widths).

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Legal aspects: Local and state laws and building codes impose restrictions on fences in many parts of the country. To be on the safe side, check the laws that apply in your area. This is particularly important if the fence encloses a pool or other so-called "attractive nuisance."

Check with your neighbor if you are planning to erect a fence on a property line. If you can agree on a design, you can probably get him to share the cost and work of building and maintaining the structure. If you can't agree, you can build the fence just inside your own property.

Gates: Structurally, a gate is a square or rectangular frame, with a diagonal brace running from the top of the frame on the hinged side down to the bottom corner opposite. Hardware should be sturdy and corrosion resistant. Gate posts should be 4x6's or 6x6's, and firmly planted. Make sure the gate is at least 3 feet wide.



Versatility of redwood is shown in the fence above, designed by Olmstead Brothers, Landscape Architects. Opaque panels set in redwood framework carry out Oriental theme of residence and garden.



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