

Garden Walls

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HILL gardens have a natural charm, but work in them can be difficult. Terracing will make gardening easier and when walls are judiciously fitted into the landscape they can become a feature. Types of walls and their construction, merits, and faults are discussed in this article.

TERRACING by several small walls is usually the most desirable method in hill gardens because construction is easier and also the character of a hill garden is retained. A high wall is generally unattractive. Even if in time it can be covered with trailing plants, it does not provide scope for growing the mixture of plants which makes hill gardens so attractive.

Frosts are generally not the same problem in hill gardens as on flat sections, but frost danger is relatively less on a sloping section than it is on a terraced one. The wider a terrace the greater is the chance of it becoming a frost pocket and the nearer the bottom of the hill the greater this danger becomes.

Underground springs are often encountered where a large excavation is made for a wall and require adequate outlets, but where it is possible to break the hillside up with several smaller walls drainage can more readily be provided.

A series of smaller walls are much easier to make. Not only is the job simpler, but also it can be done over a period. Each wall can be made as time and finance permit and there is less interference with the general development of the garden.

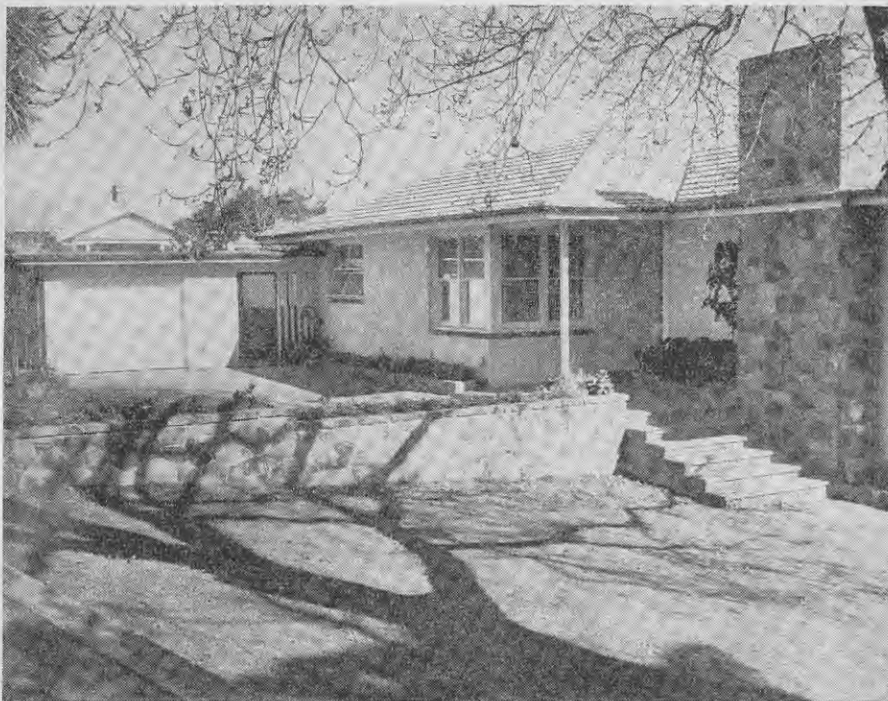
Walls should not be made too long. A garden will be more interesting if the terraces vary a little in levels and extent.

Terracing of a hill section done with the strength and enthusiasm of youth will make work in the garden so much easier in later years.

Foundations

It is of utmost importance to have a firm foundation to a wall. This is seldom difficult on a slope, as the subsoil is mostly hard clay, rock, or papa, but not so where a hillside has been levelled before building was started and considerable quantities of loose soil have been thrown down the slope.

With such unstable soil it is risky to build permanent walls, and, in general, it would be wiser for an amateur to build a temporary wall until the soil has settled.



The stone wall and steps with matching chimney distinguish the approach to this house. [Sparrow

▼ Concrete walls are very formal and give a cold atmosphere to a garden.

