

# Working with Mixed Media

Using information and techniques found in this book, you can combine masonry materials and other elements to create custom accents for your home and garden.

Landscape design offers the greatest opportunity for combining materials in custom designs. By combining manufactured and natural materials, you can bring out the distinctive qualities of each while adding interest to the whole.

Because it can be formed into almost any shape, concrete is useful for mixed media projects. You can embed objects in a concrete surface (pages 118 to 119), imprint the concrete, or use finishing techniques (pages 52 to 53) to achieve a custom texture. Wet stucco and mortar provide similar opportunities for creativity.

Use the ideas here to start thinking about mixed media projects, then look through the book to find projects and techniques that involve specific materials. This can help you determine the compatibility of your selected media and will guide your planning and installation.

## Tips for Working with Mixed Media



**Decorate concrete** by imprinting the surface with leaves or twigs, or by embedding small objects after screeding the concrete (pages 118 to 119). Trowel powdered pigments and dry cement into the wet concrete surface to give it a distinctive color.



**Combine materials in visually appealing patterns**, as was done in this walkway made from natural stones, brick pavers, and ceramic tiles. When selecting media for outdoor projects, consider how the materials will stand up to weather, outdoor furniture, and heavy foot traffic.



**Use natural materials to** lend a rustic feel to a concrete walk. This walk mixes smooth and exposed-aggregate concrete (pages 52 to 53). Ashlar stone retaining walls make an effective transition between concrete and plants, shrubs, and soil.