YardSmarts

Come On In
Create a welcoming front entry garden with one of these four ideas.

BY Denny Schrock

Avoid the straight and narrow A wide, curving path to a colorful doorway establishes an inviting approach. Brick pavers provide stable footing and echo the door’s hue. Make the path at least three or four feet wide for side-by-side strolling. Colorful annual flowers flank the walkway and guide your eye to the door. Trimmed boxwood hedges give the planting beds year-round structure, and magenta bougainvillea arches over the doorway. Photographer: Ed Gotlich

Step it up
Color-coordinated containers of blue hydrangea, New Guinea impatiens, purple lobelia, golden calibrachoa, and tropical foliage beckon visitors onto the porch of this Arts and Crafts home. Spring green ceramic spheres match the containers, providing a unifying effect. Pedestal urns positioned by the doorway tie in with the porch columns and beams. Photographer: Pete Krumhardt
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**Install islands of interest**

This entry garden creates an enjoyable journey to the front door, beginning with a street-side stone mosaic and continuing past pools of color from planting beds and architectural salvage elements. A bench tucked into the garden next to a bend in the pathway encourages you to linger along the way.

Photographer: Pete Krumhardt

**Make a grand entrance**

A rose-covered arbor combined with a white picket fence creates a charming cottage-style welcome. The design echoes the framework of the pergola sheltering the front porch and unites the two areas. Pink foxgloves, peonies, and dahlias outside the fence continue the cottage-garden theme and repeat the color of hydrangeas by the porch foundation.

Photographer: Ed Gohlich