

New landscaping company offers outdoor retreats Yards Apart from others

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Al Matheson of Yards Apart Landscape and Design decided to begin his new business after 13 years in the same trade with other local companies.

Photo: Rebecca Howland/The Daily Gleaner

If you're looking for a local company to do your summer landscaping, there's one that says they're yards apart from the rest.

Yards Apart Landscape and Design began in the spring and owner Al Matheson says they've been busy with calls and new clients ever since.

"This is my 13th year in the trade," Matheson as he worked in a yard on the north side.

His latest job consisted of placing patio blocks and rocks around the side of a pool.

Matheson has worked for other landscaping companies in the past, but felt it was time to venture out on his own.

He likes landscaping because of the self-satisfaction.

“[I like having] happy customers,” said Matheson.

When it comes to the name of his company, Matheson said it came after a family member put a call for ideas on Facebook.

Matheson had a different name in mind, but after Yards Apart was pitched, it began to grow on him.

“It’s a play on words,” he said. “We tear yards apart and we’re yards apart in terms of measurement from the competition.”

Yards Apart does a little bit of everything, from placing plants and mulch to patio stones.

Matheson meets with clients to get an idea of what they would like and then suggest various ways to make it more stunning.

“You approach them all differently,” he said. “At the end of the day, the principles are the same. It’s just the design that might change.”





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So, what makes a great landscaping design?

“Nice sexy lines,” said Matheson.

Curved lines are often favoured in landscaping simply because they look good.

The number of people Matheson employs at a job site depends on the size of the project and the jobs that need to be done, he said.

He says the most popular trend in landscaping right now is outdoor living spaces.

“People like that escape feeling,” said Matheson. “[They don’t have to go very far] and some of them might not have the luxury of a nice rural setting.”

These outdoor living spaces can include everything from elaborate outdoor living rooms complete with furniture to cozy gazebos that offer more room to entertain and sit with friends.

Even though spring and summer may be two of the busiest seasons for the landscaping business, Matheson says he is expecting a busy fall as well.

“It’s almost like when school goes back in, there’s a second rush,” he said. “People evaluate where they’re at, what’s left [to do], how much more is left to take on. [Landscaping] businesses are just as busy because all the buildings in the summer are wrapping up and you need to do ground work.”

As for what’s to come, Matheson just hopes for lots of happy customers.

“We’re taking calls every day and going to see customers,” he said. “Some jobs are a little more glamorous than others, but [that’s okay].”