

CURTAINS IN THE LANDSCAPE, HYGGE STYLE



Delving into the idea of Hygge, **Sean Butler** takes us through how curtains can transform a building and bring comfort into any project

When looking for new ideas it's good to think out of the box a little.

You may recall my article on how to build a polygon roof – here's the finished building. We wanted to create a rustic cabin feel, with a Nordic Hygge style. Hygge is a Danish and Norwegian word for a mood of cosiness and comfortable conviviality, with feelings of wellness and contentment. We used warm colours, textures and natural materials used in a way that was totally new to me.

You will see that we have curtains to complete the dressed building. Due to the 40kg weight of each curtain, I designed a steel I-beam as a roof plate on top of the concrete block wall.

We commissioned Dagenham's JML Section Benders to bend both the I-beam and a 50mm steel tube. These had to be in two halves due to the circumference of 18.84LM. This enabled me to fabricate bespoke heavy-duty pipe brackets which we extended



out and welded onto the I-beam. We named it Jabba – Jabba the Hut! The interior fabric Sunbury design was chosen to pick out the rusty colours of the multi slate walls which we fitted vertically. In Jabba I designed a three-metre cantilevered steel frame which was set into the wall and finished in an air dried oak. Copper lanterns, candles and my wife's



finishing touches all made Jabba what it is now. We also commissioned a specialist curtain maker local to us, Simon Houlding.

We wanted a warm coloured fabric that was water proof and would hang heavy so that it

didn't blow around in the wind. We decided on Kayospruce, which has an outer layer of acrylic canvas, and then Sunbury design aquaclean fabric. The canvas is waterproof and UV resistant, and surface dirt and stains are easily wiped off.

The opening is five metres, so we needed a lot of fabric. I am fussy when it comes to curtains, I like the fabrics to look full when fully shut. I advise if you like this same look, to go for four times the width. It adds exuberance and a sense of luxury to the finish. The curtains were lead-weighted at the bottom to prevent movement in the wind.

The ambience that these curtains add really make the room feel cosy, and warm – perfectly in harmony Hygge style. On another project, the



curtains were hung straight, again on a 50mm steel tube. The external fabric was chosen to compliment colours and tough enough to jet wash when dirty. As this garden was exposed to prevailing winds, we suggested sand-filled sausage dogs with toggles sewn on for easy fitting in winter, solving the issue of movement and adding another interior feature outdoors.

Consider fabrics and curtains in your projects and experience a whole new Hygge style!



ABOUT SEAN BUTLER

Sean Butler is a landscape designer and director of Cube 1994. With a background in civil engineering, Sean has an in-depth understanding of the design, construction and maintenance of the physical and naturally built landscape.
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