



EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
with Tim Goom

Opportunity knocks: repairing your earthquake damaged landscape

More than 7 years on, the impact of the Canterbury earthquakes can still be seen. We remain a city of repairs, demolition and construction as our new cityscape evolves.

Whilst initially property owners were excited to watch as their repairs unfolded, we have all heard of or experienced first hand, building repairs that have failed within short time frames. Unfortunately, this is also true of landscaping repairs. The old adage "you get what you pay for" applies equally to repairs in both your home and your landscape. Some landscaping services may appear to give more bang for your buck initially, but if corners are cut to keep costs down, this will impact quality and longevity. Relying on EQC to undertake your landscaping repairs can mean that higher end quality products won't be accessible. The landscaping repairs might not be completed to the same standard as the rest of your property and home and may diminish the overall finish- and value.

Many people report feeling frustrated by the repair process in relation to their landscaping. Understandably EQC and its service providers are limited by significant budgetary constraints, the focus is on getting the repair done. These limitations often don't leave much room for a design or aesthetic component in the repair strategy.

Enlisting help from a landscape architect before the repairs commence is a wonderful opportunity to make changes to your landscaping and revisit any element which wasn't quite right. Such opportunities do not come along very often! Your EQC pay out can go towards kick-starting your transformation. With a little additional investment, your repairs can metamorphose your outdoor space from ordinary to exceptional. Much research has gone in to assessing how good landscaping impacts the overall value of your property. It is clear that when it comes time to sell, great landscaping will significantly increase the resale value of your property. On the flip side, sub-standard landscaping can diminish its value.



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If the earthquake repairs have already been completed but aren't all you hoped for, it isn't too late- we can work with what you have to transform it in to something amazing. It may only take tweaks to transform the space. A large but potentially dull area of concrete that EQC have laid can be a blank canvas. With additional hardscaping, the space can be broken up and become the centrepiece of your outdoor space. Planter boxes or large pots, seating areas, a water feature, an outdoor fire- these are all relatively straightforward additions which can make a world of difference to an otherwise bland concrete slab.

As Christchurch based landscape architects, we totally understand the issues you face with your landscape repairs. We've all had first-hand experience in managing these issues in our own properties. Having also been involved in a wide range of earthquake landscaping repair work for our clients, we have seen what has withstood our many earthquakes- and what hasn't! As such, we can call upon our wealth of expertise and experience to advise on what to avoid, and what to use. We also understand which type of designs perform well, and how to construct them to a safe standard. We can advise on the range of appropriate repairs to suit your budget but we also know the realistic costs involved in undertaking repairs to a high standard. There are many 'cheap and cheerful' repairs on offer out there- these may improve the bottom line of the provider but are unlikely to withstand the test of time.

Call Goom Landscapes today to discuss an earthquake repair strategy for your property.

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