



Dress Up Your Mailbox Column

Build curb appeal with a pillar of landscape stone

BY RICHARD BLUMER

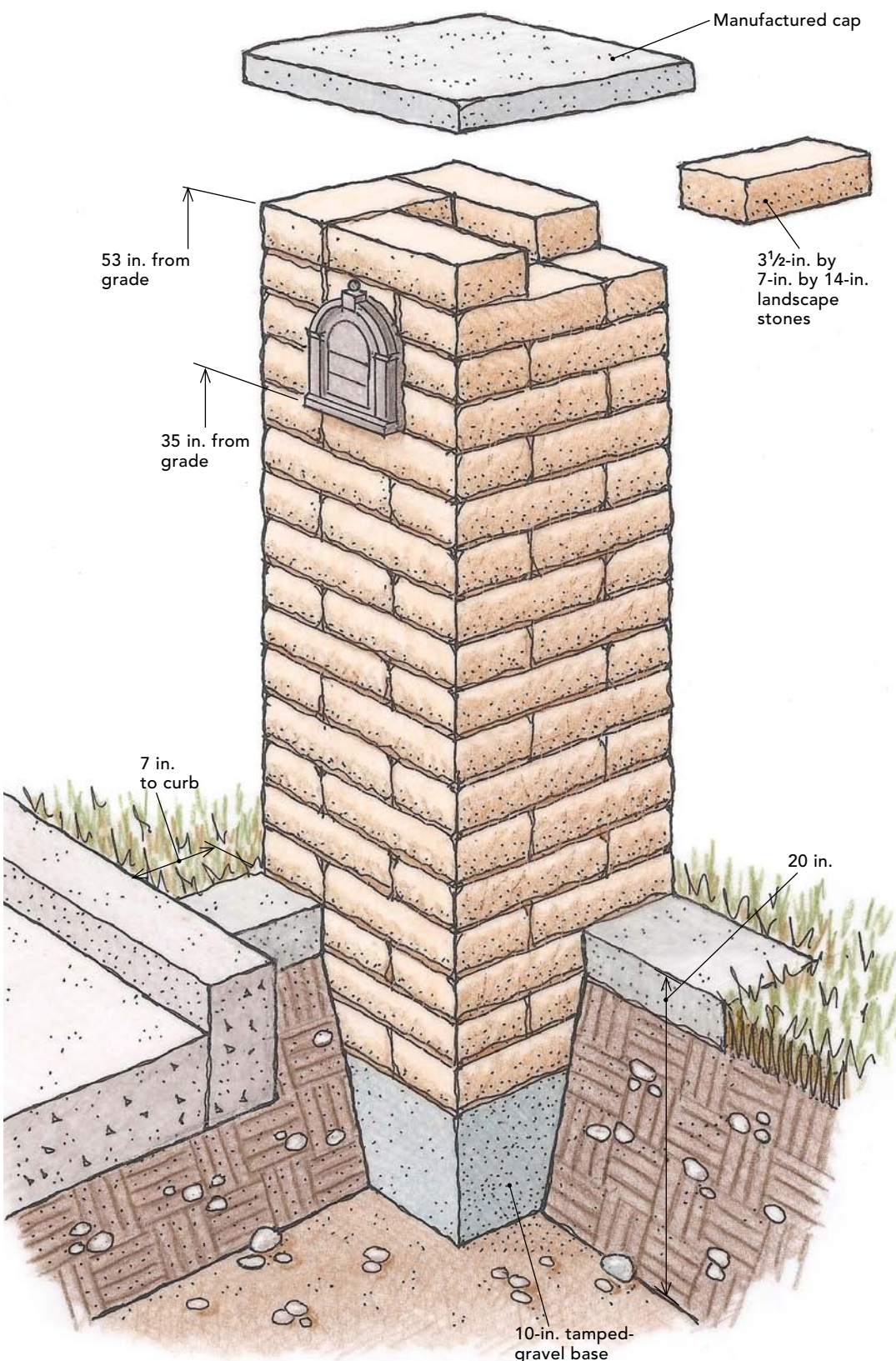
The majority of mailboxes that I see are supported by a 4x4 wood post, a single round or square metal post, or some sort of ornate extruded metal. The shortcoming of all these designs is that they usually look lost against the backdrop of the houses they stand before. Just as your front door is the entrance to your house, your mailbox is the entrance to your property. It should be given just as much attention as any other part of your home. Building a mailbox pillar of manufactured stone will give you the curb appeal and wow factor that your home deserves.

For this project, I chose landscape stone from Midwest Manufacturing. Landscape stone can be purchased at any home center, it doesn't need a concrete foundation or mortared joints, and it's easy to install level and square. In addition, the 3½-in. by 7-in. by 14-in. landscape stones give the mailbox a substantial and casual appearance. Before you start, consider the USPS mailbox guidelines (USPS.com) and any other municipal or neighborhood requirements.

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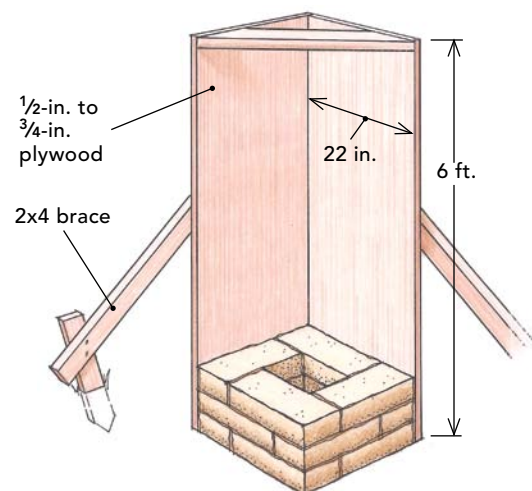
FROM THE GROUND UP

Construction begins with a foundation hole that's 20 in. deep and slightly larger than the column and that's filled with 10 in. of paver-base or crusher-run gravel tamped in 2-in. layers. A thin layer of sand can be added if necessary to make the base perfectly level. Loctite PL Landscape Adhesive secures each layer to the previous one, and a 24-in. by 24-in. landscape-stone cap tops the column.



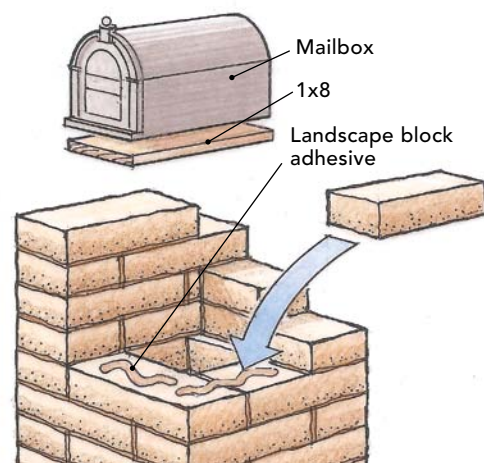
Keeping the column plumb and square

A plywood form speeds the block laying. Braced plumb and square, the form guides two sides of the column as it's built.



Setting the box

A piece of 1x8 is glued into the bottom of the mailbox. This in turn is glued to the landscape stone below. The stones at the back are cut out to make a ledge to support the box.



Capping the column

The landscape stone above the mailbox is fit using an angle grinder with a diamond blade. A glued-in-place galvanized framing plate supports the stone above that. Shims hold the coved stone until the glue sets.

